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Santa Monica Daily Press
WEEKEND EDITION
01.04.20 - 01.05.20
Volume 19 Issue 45

A Garden Volunteer
Luffa vines grow unannounced but not unappreciated.
Page 8

False alarm, real arrest
Do not pull fire alarms while drunk.
Page 14

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US-Iran tensions thrust foreign policy into Democrats' race

STEVE PEOPLES AND HUNTER WOODALL
Associated Press

Democratic presidential candidates are lambasting President Donald Trump's decision to kill Iran's top general in an airstrike, a move that has thrust foreign policy to the forefront of the primary and revived intraparty disputes over military intervention in the Middle East.

Leading candidates in the Democratic primary were united in describing Gen. Qassem Soleimani as a murderer responsible for the deaths of Americans. But they also slammed Trump as reckless and ill-prepared for the consequences — and retaliation — likely to follow the killing.

Former Vice President Joe Biden charged Thursday that Trump "tossed a stick of dynamite into a tinderbox." Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren said the move "'increased the likelihood of more deaths and new Middle East conflict."

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders slammed what he called a "dangerous escalation" that puts the United States "on the path to another war — potentially one that could be even worse than before."

The foreign policy focus, at least for a day, marked a sharp shift for a Democratic primary that has so far been dominated by domestic policy

SEE **POLICY** PAGE 14

Local Staples store to close in February



Rose Mann

OFFICE SUPPLY: **The store on Wilshire Blvd. has confirmed it will close next month.**

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

The Staples store located on Wilshire Boulevard and 15th Street is set to close on Friday, Feb. 7, according to company officials.

Store employees said they had no information as to why the local store is closing, but Staples' corporate office said the business is evolving alongside the customer when it confirmed the closure in a statement Tuesday.

"We continually monitor the performance of Staples stores across the country to ensure we're meeting our customers where they want to be met," said Staples spokesperson Jocelyn Moruzzi. "We remain committed to supporting lifelong achievement for small businesses, parents, teachers and students through our products, solutions and shared learning."

SEE **STAPLES** PAGE 7

Democratic states appeal Obamacare ruling to Supreme Court

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

In a move that could put the Obama-era health law squarely in the middle of the 2020 election, Democratic-led states Friday asked the Supreme Court for a fast-track review of a recent court ruling that declared part of the statute unconstitutional and cast a cloud over the rest.

A coalition of 20 states led by California Attorney General Xavier Becerra filed a petition seeking expedited review. They hope to get a Supreme Court hearing and decision by this summer, before the November elections. For the court to agree to such a timetable would be unusual, but not unprecedented.

Defenders of the Affordable Care Act are arguing that the issues raised by the case are too important to let the litigation drag on for months or years in lower courts, and that the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans erred when it struck down the health law's now toothless requirement that Americans have health insurance.

"The lower courts' actions have created uncertainty about the future of the entire Affordable Care Act, and that uncertainty threatens adverse consequences for our nation's healthcare system, including for patients, doctors, insurers, and state and local governments," according to the states' filing.

There was no immediate

SEE **OBAMACARE** PAGE 11


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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 Ram-part District-based art organization Art Division. Memories. 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

Get Organized for 2020!

Certified Professional Organizer® Cary 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.

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. Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30 - 6 p.m. Main Library.

Baby Time

Stories, songs, bounces, and puppets for ages 0-18 months. Fairview Branch Library, 12:30 - 12:50 p.m.

Toddler Time

Story series for toddlers ages 18 to 35 months accompanied by an adult. (20 min.) Pico Branch Library, 11 - 11:20 a.m.

Tuesday, January 7

Walk-In Tutoring

Tutors provide help with basic reading and writing skills, using the Internet, filling out online forms, using email, resume writing, and job searches. Main Library, 5 - 7 p.m.

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

Legal basis for US killing of Iran general depends on threat

BEN FOX
Associated Press

Did President Donald Trump have the legal authority to order the killing of a top Iranian general in Iraq?

The answer depends largely on facts that aren't publicly known yet. And experts are quick to point out that even if it was legally justified that doesn't make it the right decision, or one that will be politically smart in the long run. Iran and its allies are vowing revenge.

In its limited explanation so far, the Pentagon said Gen. Qassem Soleimani was "actively developing" plans to kill American diplomats and service members when he was killed in a U.S. drone strike Friday near the Baghdad airport shortly after arriving in the country.

That would appear to place the action within the legal authority of the president, as commander in chief, to use force in defense of the nation under Article II of the Constitution, said Bobby Chesney, a professor at the University of Texas School of Law who specializes in national security issues.

"If the facts are as the Defense Department said, then the president relatively clearly has Article II authority to act in self-defense of American lives," Chesney said.

That justification would apply even if Soleimani hadn't already launched an attack under the established doctrine of "anticipatory" self-defense, according to Jeff Addicot, a retired Army officer and expert in national security law at St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio.

"Legally there's no issue," Addicot said. "Politically, however, it's going to be debated, whether it's the correct response. In my opinion it's the appropriate response, but it's certainly legal."

Self-defense would be a legal justification under both U.S. law and the laws of international armed conflict, though the experts consulted by The Associated Press repeatedly stressed that this would depend on what intelligence prompted the killing, and American authorities may never release that information.

"Under international law, self-defense, to be lawful, will need to be invoked in situations where there is an imminent attack against the interest of the territory, in this case of the United States," said Agnès Callamard, United Nations special rapporteur on extrajudicial executions. "At this point in time, the United States has not thus far provided any information suggesting that there was an imminent attack against the American interest."

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the general posed an "imminent" threat. "He was actively plotting in the region to take actions — a big action, as he described it – that would have put dozens if not hundreds of American lives at risk," he told CNN.

The U.S. has used such justification in the past. In April 1986, President Ronald Reagan launched strikes against Libya based on what he said was "solid evidence" of attacks planned by longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi against U.S. installations, diplomats and American tourists. The attack, which the president said was "carefully targeted to minimize casualties" among civilians, killed about 40 people but not the Libyan leader.

One problem with relying on the self-defense rationale is that the justification is undermined if the risk of retaliation would create more of a threat to Americans, said David Glazier of Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. "This is an incredibly complex question," he said. "I'd be very wary of anyone who says they know the answer."

There are separate but related legal questions about other aspects of the attack that Iran state TV said killed a total of 10 people, including a deputy commander, five Revolutionary Guard members and Soleimani's son-in-law. Among them: Was this a legitimate military target? Yes, since the general was a military and not a civilian figure, according to experts.

Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds Force, oversaw foreign operations that U.S. officials say have killed hundreds of American troops.

Callamard said the deaths of civilians make this potentially an "arbitrary killing" under international human rights law. But U.S. experts said so-called collateral deaths have long been an unfortunate fact of war and whether this would amount to a war crime would depend on factors such as how many of the people killed could be considered legitimate targets in a conflict.

Democratic leaders of Congress complained they weren't notified of the strike in advance. Chesney said the administration could argue it has legal authority to protect the troops in the Middle East who were dispatched under congressional authorizations in 2001 and 2002 in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

That argument, however, starts to get shakier if the killing of Soleimani escalates into a wider conflict, said Stephen Vladeck, a professor at the University of Texas School of Law who specializes in national security law and the prosecution of war crimes.

"Even though the Executive Branch has pursued ever-broader theories of the President's unilateral power to use force in self-defense, one of the critical considerations in each case has been whether the force comes with a risk of escalation," Vladeck said by email. "Where, as here, there is no question that it does, the argument that the President needed clearer buy-in from the legislature is much, much stronger."

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said the world is "better off" without Soleimani. But after receiving a classified briefing on the intelligence that led to the strike he questioned the timing and expressed concern about what might happen next.

"Sulemani has been engaged in deadly and malevolent action throughout the region for a long time," Schiff said. "And the question is why the administration chose this moment, why this administration made the decision to remove him from the battlefield and other administrations, both parties, decided that would escalate the risks, not reduce them."

With contributions from Associated Press journalists Martha Collins in London; and Padmananda Rama, Mary Clare Jalonick and Laurie Kellman in Washington.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: **Introduction and First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend the Text of Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.07.030 to Clarify Parcel Coverage Limitations for Existing Structures with Additions in the R1 (Single-Unit Residential) District.**

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to introduce for first reading an ordinance amending the text of Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.07.030 to clarify the R1 parcel coverage limitations for existing structures with new additions.

On December 18, 2019, the Planning Commission adopted a Resolution recommending to the City Council that the Council make the proposed amendment to SMMC Section 9.07.030 clarifying the parcel coverage limitations for existing structures with new additions.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020, AT 6:30 P.M.**

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: R1 Clarification
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Or email to councilmtgitems@smgov.net

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Ross Fehrman at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at ross.fehrman@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.smgov.net.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7, #8, #9, Rapid 10, and #18 service City Hall and the Civic Center area. The Expo Line terminus is at Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street, a short walk to City Hall. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free). Bike racks are provided.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 301 CALLS ON JAN. 02

Living In A Vehicle 1700blk 10th St 12:59 a.m.
Malicious Mischief Report 1600blk Main St 4:38 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 26th St / Santa Monica Blvd 6:41 a.m.
Auto Burglary Just Occurred 900blk 3rd St 6:55 a.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 300blk 22nd St 7:55 a.m.
Death Investigation 1400blk 17th St 7:56 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 800blk 5th St 7:57 a.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1400blk 2nd St 8:09 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 2600blk Lincoln Blvd 8:32 a.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 8:40 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 700blk Marine St 8:55 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400blk 4th St 9:03 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 700blk Marine St 9:22 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 00blk Gale Pl 9:35 a.m.
Battery Report 800blk Ocean Ave 9:36 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1500blk Euclid St 9:39 a.m.
Burglary Report 1200blk 14th St 10:02 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1200blk 7th St 10:21 a.m.
Check Temporary No Parking Signs 1200blk 16th St 10:21 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1500blk Ocean Ave 10:31 a.m.
Public Intoxication 14th St / Pico Blvd 10:34 a.m.
Person Down 1200blk 22nd St 10:44 a.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1300blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:44 a.m.
Fraud Report 2500blk Broadway 11:11 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 11:18 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 800blk 3rd St 11:35 a.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 11:49 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 1900blk 6th St 11:50 a.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1200blk 23rd St 11:54 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 2200blk Delaware Ave 11:59 a.m.
Elder Abuse 500blk Olympic Blvd W 12:07 p.m.
Lewd Activity 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 12:09 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1700blk The Beach 12:11 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1500blk 6th St 12:16 p.m.
Person Down 1600blk Main St 12:36 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 800blk Stanford St 12:38 p.m.
Violation Of Preferential Parking Zone 1700blk 16th St 12:39 p.m.
Encampment 700blk Olympic Blvd E 12:45 p.m.
Petty Theft Now 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 12:48 p.m.
Fraud Report 600blk Grant St 1:12 p.m.
Indecent Exposure Just Occurred 1900blk Main St 1:33 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 700blk Broadway 1:33 p.m.
Encampment Lincoln Blvd / Hill St 1:39 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 1100blk Pacific Coast Hwy 1:44 p.m.
Burglary Report 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 1:44 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1400blk 26th St 1:48 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1300blk 4th St 1:51 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 2:47 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1200blk Wilshire Blvd 2:59 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1500blk 6th St 3:00 p.m.
Drinking In Public 2200blk Main St 3:02 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 25th St / Wilshire Blvd 3:13 p.m.
Burglary Report 900blk 4th St 3:26 p.m.
Fraud Report 400blk Wilshire Blvd 3:37 p.m.
Theft Of Recyclables 800blk 7th St 4:02 p.m.
Battery Report 1200blk Wilshire Blvd 4:11 p.m.
Harassing Phone Calls Report 900blk Pico Blvd 4:19 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 4th St / Pico Blvd 4:30 p.m.
Lewd Activity 2200blk Virginia Ave 4:45 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 2100blk Ashland Ave 5:16 p.m.
Encampment 6th St / California Ave 5:16 p.m.
Fraud Report 1200blk 26th St 5:27 p.m.
Smoking Violation 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 6:18 p.m.
Report Of Shots Fired 9th St / Michigan Ave 7:16 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation 26th St / San Vicente Blvd 7:17 p.m.
Grand Theft Just Occurred 1500blk 2nd St 7:32 p.m.
Battery Now 900blk Pico Blvd 7:37 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Report Lincoln Blvd / Colorado Ave 8:17 p.m.
Identity Theft 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 8:56 p.m.
Found Person 300blk Santa Monica Pier 9:54 p.m.
Found Senile Person 18th St / Santa Monica Blvd 10:21 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 100blk Santa Monica Blvd 10:58 p.m.
Malicious Mischief Now Barnard Way / Ocean Park Blvd 11:52 p.m.

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Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Malibu

Malibu Invites Community Members to Volunteer for the Annual Homeless Count

The City of Malibu seeks community volunteers to assist with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's (LAHSA) annual Homeless Count on January 22, 2020, 7 to 10 a.m. when thousands of volunteers will join the effort to enumerate the County's homeless population.

"I hope you can join the many volunteers across the County who help with this important service to the community," said Mayor Karen Farrer. "We can only make good policies and decisions when we have good information."

The federally mandated Homeless Count is crucial to providing accurate data from the field needed to inform funding, resources and activities to address homelessness across the County.

The data gathered helps service providers, policy makers, local governments, elected officials and other stakeholders understand the geographic and demographic diversity of homelessness so that the types of services and housing provided are more effective and responsive to the needs in the community. It is also needed to enable the monitoring of progress in the efforts to address homelessness. The City of Malibu uses the data in the ongoing implementation of its Homelessness Strategic Plan.

Volunteers are asked to register in advance to ensure there are sufficient numbers of volunteers. No experience is necessary. Training will be provided the morning of the count, which will begin at 7:00 AM at Malibu City Hall, located at 23825 Stuart Ranch Road, Malibu CA 90265. Volunteers will be broken into groups and assigned an area to conduct the count from a vehicle while driving the area in a vehicle. Most volunteers will not need to get out of their vehicle or interact directly with homeless individuals.

To volunteer or for more information, visit www.TheyCountWillYou.org/volunteer and enter Malibu's zip code, 90265. For more information about Malibu's homeless initiatives, contact Sarah Kaplan at 310-456-2489, ext. 368 or SKaplan@MalibuCity.org or visit www.MalibuCity.org/Homeless.

MATT MYERHOFF, MEDIA INFORMATION OFFICER

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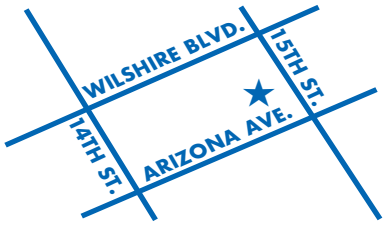
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SANTA MONICA

New Leadership Appointed to Santa Monica Public Works Department

City of Santa Monica Public Works Director Susan Cline has appointed five leaders to the Public Works Department: Peter James was named Chief Operations Officer, Stelios Makrides was selected as Chief Operations Officer-Airport Director, Christopher Dishlip was appointed Capital Program Manager, Alex Nazarchuk was named City Engineer, and Sunny Wang was selected as Water Resources Manager.

"I have worked closely with each of these team members, and they have demonstrated their capacity to effectively lead Public Works operations and collaborate with City staff and community members," said Public Works Director Susan Cline. "I look forward to working with them to continue providing essential services to the Santa Monica community."

Peter James oversees strategic planning and operations for the Public Landscape Division and the Office of Sustainability and the Environment. Prior to joining the Public Works Department, he spent 14 years with the Planning and Community Development Department as the Principal Planner in charge of leading the City's long-range planning projects including the Downtown Community Plan, the Lincoln Neighborhood Corridor Plan, and the Pico Wellbeing Project. James earned a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz and a master's degree in urban design from the London School of Economics. He is a member of the American Planning Association. James is also a daily bicycle commuter and an early morning runner, and he enjoys traveling to far-away places with his wife and two kids. He began his role on December 9, 2019, and has an annual salary of $159,540.

Stelios Makrides oversees operations for the Santa Monica Municipal Airport, Facilities Maintenance Division, and the Fleet subdivision. Makrides has worked for the Airport for the past 13 years, starting out as an Airport Noise/Operations Specialist and working his way up to Airport and Real Estate Director. His responsibilities have expanded greatly over the years to include navigating complex areas of work related to budgeting, maintenance, and community and federal government relations. Prior to joining the City of Santa Monica, he began his career in 2003 with the Santa Barbara Airport. Makrides earned a bachelor's degree in aviation administration from California State University, Los Angeles and is a member of the American Association of Airport Executives. He is a devoted husband and father of two beautiful daughters with whom he enjoys traveling, strolling on the beach, spending time at the park and cycling. He began his role on December 22, 2019, and has an annual salary of $187,692.

Christopher Dishlip leads the Architecture Services Division and is responsible for overseeing the City's architectural projects, including planning, design, and construction activities for citywide Capital Improvement Program projects, as well as tenant improvements related to City-owned facilities and open spaces. He has 16 years of experience in public works design and construction, 10 of which he has spent in the City's Public Works Department where he led the completion of large-scale projects including the Pico Branch Library, Parking Structure 6, and Ishihara Park. He earned a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from the University of Arizona and a Master of Science in civil engineering, specializing in construction management, from the University of Southern California. He is a licensed professional civil engineer, holds an accreditation in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED AP) and is a Design-Build Professional (DBIA Associate). When not at work, Dishlip enjoys biking and spending time at the beach with his family. He began his role on September 1, 2019 and has an annual salary of $180,468.

Alex Nazarchuk manages the Engineering and Street Services Division, overseeing design and construction of capital projects, reviewing plans for private development and public right-of-way improvements, and managing street maintenance including roadway, sidewalk and alley repairs. Nazarchuk has 17 years of engineering experience, 13 with the City of Santa Monica. During his time with Public Works, Nazarchuk has overseen major construction projects including the Charnock Wellfield Restoration Project and expansion of the Expo Light Rail into Santa Monica. He also served for nearly two years as Interim Water Resources Manager where he led efforts to update the Sustainable Water Master Plan, a blueprint for reducing the City's reliance on imported water. Before joining the City, Nazarchuk worked for an engineering consulting firm and a local building contractor. Nazarchuk is a SAMOHI graduate and earned a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Master of Engineering, civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He began his role on November 11, 2019 and has an annual salary of $183,348. He is the father of two boys, born in Santa Monica. Nazarchuk enjoys trying new food and traveling to new destinations with his family.

Sunny Wang oversees operations for the Water Resources Division, which includes groundwater production, treatment, and distribution of high-quality drinking water for the City as well as wastewater collection services. Additionally, Wang directs water resources policies and is leading the City's goal of achieving water self-sufficiency as adopted by the City Council. Wang has 18 years of experience in the engineering and water industries. He served as Principal Engineer for the City's Water Resources Division a year before being promoted to his current role. Prior to joining the City, he worked as a consultant for leading environmental engineering firms and implemented water treatment solutions globally. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California where he teaches a course on water treatment design for the Viterbi School of Engineering. Wang earned both a Bachelor of Science in chemical and environmental engineering, and a Master of Science in environmental engineering from the University of California, Riverside. He is a licensed professional civil engineer and is a member of the American Water Works Association and WateReuse Foundation. He enjoys exploring the world with his family and cycling along Pacific Coast Highway in his free time. He started his position on November 11, 2019, and has an annual salary of $173,700.

SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, SANTA MONICA PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

STAPLES

FROM PAGE 1

Word of the closure first spread after store employees at the local office supply store were told the store would be closing in a month, and local residents quickly took to social media to express their concerns.

The office retail company is primarily involved in the sale of office supplies and related products and some residents voiced worries that the shutdown could have an impact on local schools and businesses since the store is renowned for supporting locals.

"I am there at least three to four times a week shopping for various items and I always see it packed with students, parents and professionals who are all getting those 'ASAP' supplies," said resident Brian Lasky. "It's really just a bummer to lose an actual viable business. Staples serves a huge purpose in the community. (It's) such a shame."

Some residents, like Julie Werner, have written an email addressed to the company's CEO in an effort to inform the company how special the local brick and mortar supply store is to her and others.

"I hope something happens not only for residents' sake but for the employees' too," Werner said. "I've also talked to people at restaurants and they're very concerned too."

"The only other option in the area is to go to the Staples on Lincoln or the one on Bundy," according to Werner, but she feels neither of those locations are as nice as the soon-to-be-closed storefront on Wilshire.

brennon@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Ocean Park

Firefighters Extinguish Fire in Ocean Park Home

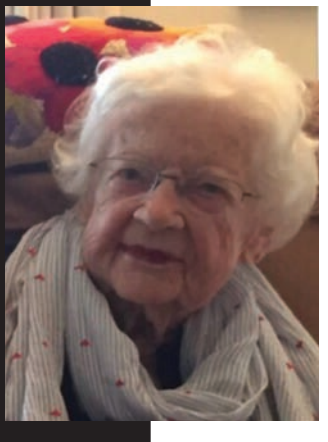
On Thursday January 2, at 2:09 p.m. Public Safety Communications received a 9-1-1 call reporting a fire in a home at 2634 6th Street in the Ocean Park community of Santa Monica. Santa Monica Firefighters arrived in approximately 7 minutes to find the 2-story home with fire showing from the windows of the first floor. Firefighters mounted an aggressive attack on the blaze while quickly searching the entire structure to ensure no occupants were trapped inside.

A total of 31 Firefighters worked to control the fire, which was extinguished in 17 minutes and confined to the first floor. There was significant damage throughout the home which was deemed uninhabitable. Thankfully, there were no reported injuries to occupants or first responders. The SMFD was assisted by the Santa Monica Police Department and McCormick Ambulance service. Fire Investigators are still investigating the cause of the fire.

SUBMITTED BY CAPTAIN PATRICK NULTY, PIO

Shirley Caroline Skeels Svenson

May 30, 1920 / December 11, 2019



Shirley, our beautiful Mom, Grandmother and Great-Grandmother, died gently at her home in Santa Monica, California on December 11 at age 99. She was born in Hastings, MN to parents Johannes and Marie Nord and raised in Preston, MN and Madison, WI. Shirley attended St. Olaf's College and graduated with a nursing degree from the University of Wisconsin, where she then worked and met Robert F. Skeels. Shirley and Bob were married on April 22, 1944, and moved to Southern California to begin their life together, and ultimately to raise their three daughters in Santa Monica.

While the girls were growing up, Shirley was a Brownie and Girl Scout leader. She was very involved for many years with the Assistance League of Santa Monica, most especially on the Building Committee and with the Thrift Shop. In 1974 she served as league president.

Shirley was a master needleworker, seamstress, and knitter, an active member of two needlepoint organizations and of her church Prayer Quilt group. She was an expert baker and celebrated her proud Norwegian heritage in the kitchen with skills she passed along to her daughters.

Shirley loved traveling, reading, and learning. She worked as a lab tech and office manager at the Shelton Medical Clinic for several years. After her husband Bob's passing, Shirley married Eric Svenson, expanding her family to include his three children, their spouses, and five grandchildren. Shirley and Eric divided their time between California and New Jersey.

Shirley was a strong and compassionate woman, dignified and very fun-loving. Throughout her life, she generously gave her love and insight to all, and nurtured close connections among family members and with friends.

Shirley is survived by her sister Elizabeth Pope of Madison WI; her three daughters Joanne Enemark (Ed) of Santa Rosa, CA; Carolyn Lupe (Bob) of Denver, CO; Susan Rossi (Pier) of Malibu, CA; six grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren. We will miss her beautiful smile and positive spirit so very much and will live in celebration of her life, her wisdom and her love.

A memorial service for Shirley will be held on January 24, 2020 at 2:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica, 1008 - 11th Street, Santa Monica CA 90403, 310-393-8258.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Assistance League of Santa Monica, 1453 - 15th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404. 310-395-2338. www.assistanceleague.org/santa-monica.

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Gardening and Community

By Talia Tinari

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Garden and Community: A Garden "Volunteer"

During last Spring's planting season, I took my sturdy blue tomato cages, duct taped together the points that normally go into the soil, and turned them over to make tee-pee trellises for beans to climb. I carefully planted the little white cannellini beans around the top circle of each tomato cage, which were now against the soil. These were the last cannellini beans I had from the previous year, so I didn't expect all of the beans to germinate, but I knew that the ones that did germinate would likely produce plentiful pods. I watered diligently, watching as the new sprouts began to emerge from the soil. In a few days, their primary leaves unfurled and flattened out to absorb the sun, but the seedlings seemed to have shifted ever so slightly from where I originally planted them. "Darn birds", I thought, as I went about transplanting the delicate little seedlings where I had wanted them, so that they could grow up the tomato cage trellis.



Courtesy photo

LUFFA VINES: Planted themselves.

In another few days, the secondary leaves revealed themselves, dark green, pointy and not what I was expecting since the leaves of a cannellini bean are light green and rounded. A garden neighbor saw me kneeling down, staring at my new seedlings. Standing over me, she opined, "They look like cucumbers!"

"No, I planted cannellini beans!", I told her.

Then it occurred to me that I had a single luffa vine in the same place the previous year. It had apparently self-seeded in remarkably close proximity to where I had planted the cannellini beans! There are few gifts of gardening that are more surprising, wonderful and frustrating to a gardener than "volunteers". In gardening lingo, a volunteer is a plant that has planted itself, either by the wind or a bird or by being mixed into compost. In this case, the luffa gourd is the gift that keeps on giving.

The luffa (also spelled loofah) sponge gourd, luffa aegyptiaca, is a vine native to Southeast Asia, and is a member of the cucumber (Cucurbitaceae) family of gourd plants. It has bright yellow flowers that attract bees. Once pollinated, immature gourds, less than 7 inches in length, may be harvested and eaten. A quick Google search reveals that the best way to prepare them is to peel, cut on the bias into small pieces and sauté with garlic and olive oil. The gourds are considered a suitable substitute for squash in a vegetable stir-fry.

More commonly, the gourds are used for scrubbing. The gourds must be grown to full maturity and left on the vine to dry. The gourds are fully grown at about 8 to 12 inches long and will go from a dark green cucumber-like color to pale green, then yellow and finally, brown. Once brown and dry, they can be cut from the vine and the brown outer layer peeled away to expose the fibrous cellular structure of the gourd. To prepare them for use as a body sponge or as a scrubber for household or kitchen tasks, the seeds need to be shaken from the gourd. The mature seeds will be black. These can be saved for replanting or discarded. The immature seeds will be white and can be composted. Once most of the seeds have fallen out of the gourd, the gourds need to be sterilized using bleach. I use a solution of one-part bleach to two-parts water, fill a basin with it and two or three gourds at a time, letting them soak overnight or for up to twenty-four hours. The gourds will be lighter in color and should be free from any mold or discoloration. I then rinse the gourds thoroughly and soak in cold water for another twenty-four hours. If an odor of bleach remains after the second soaking, the luffa should be rinsed and soaked in water again.

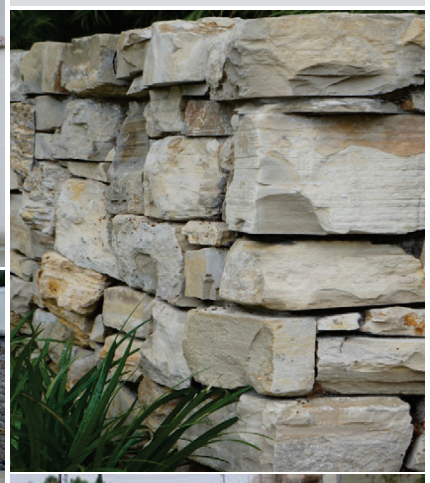
Luffa seeds can be planted directly in the ground or in a large, deep container or pot. In either place, they must have a trellis or something to climb. They need direct sun—at least 6 hours a day—and well-drained soil. If grown in a container, good organic potting soil is sufficient. It can take several months, up to eight or nine, for all of the gourds to mature and dry on the vine. My vines still have one, gorgeous, dark green gourd and nine gourds on their way to drying. The same neighbor who noticed the seedlings walked by recently and said, "Wow! You ended up with lots of luffa! You have to be careful though, they're almost invasive!"

Join us at the Main Street Community Garden for our Second Saturday Breakfast on January 11 from 9-11 a.m. We'll be giving away free luffa sponges and seeds while supplies last!

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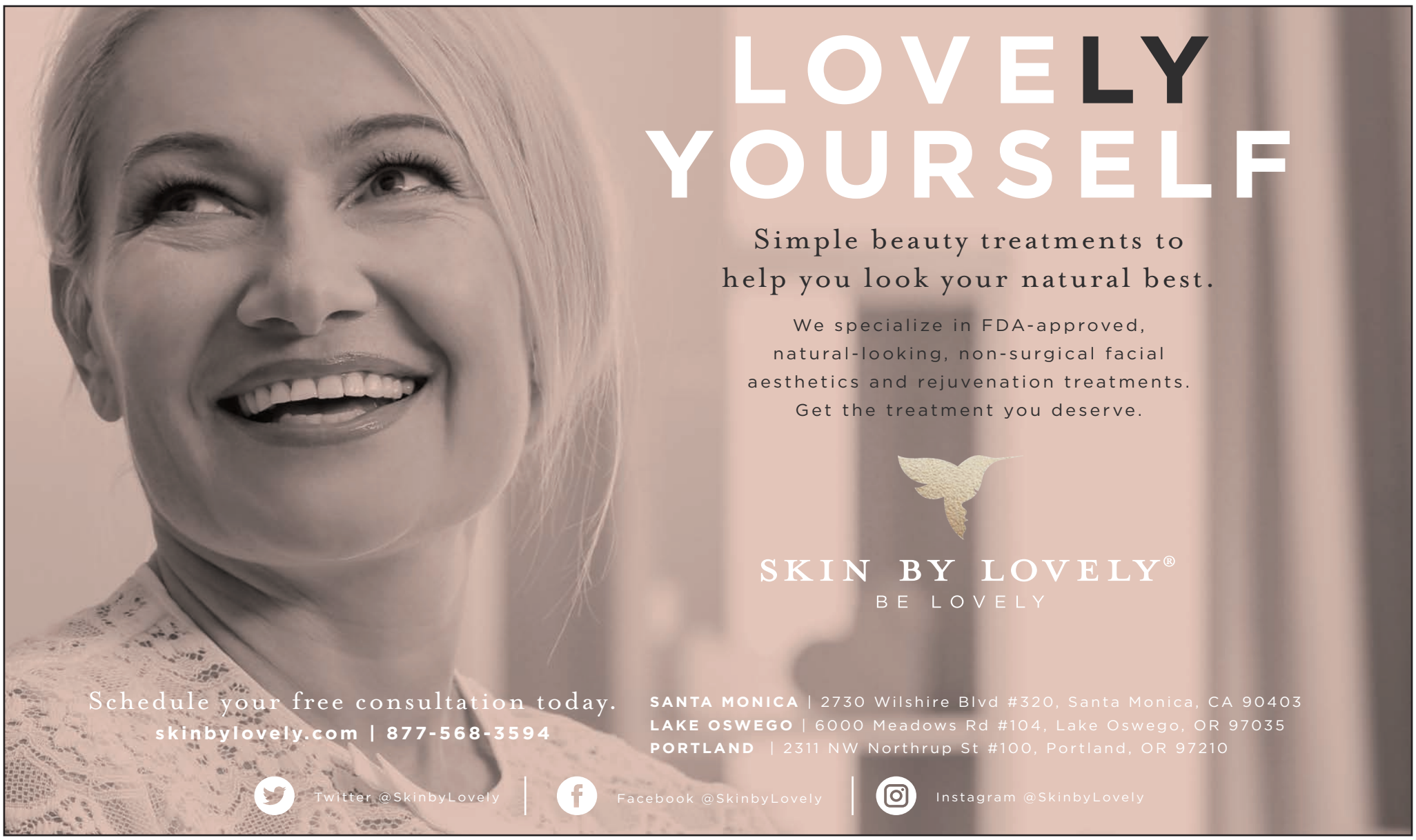
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OBAMACARE

FROM PAGE 1

reaction from the Trump administration. President Donald Trump had declared the appeals court ruling a victory.

While finding the health law's individual mandate to be unconstitutional, the 5th Circuit made no decision on such popular provisions as protections for people with preexisting conditions, Medicaid expansion, and coverage for young adults up to age 26 on their parents' policies.

The 2-1 appeals court decision left the health law in effect for now. Open enrollment season for 2020 has been able to proceed without disruption.

The 5th Circuit sent the case back to a lower court judge who has already decided once to throw out the entire health care law. The appellate court asked Texas-based U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor to determine whether other parts of the law can be separated from the insurance requirement, and thus remain in place.

About 20 million people now have coverage through the ACA, including its subsidized private insurance and Medicaid expansion. But the 900-page law also made many changes to other programs, from Medicare, to community health centers, to fraud-fighting efforts. Sorting out what might stay and what might go with the insurance mandate would be a colossal effort.

The 5th Circuit found that the requirement to carry insurance was rendered unconstitutional when Congress in 2017 eliminated the tax penalty for people going without coverage.

A revival of the "Obamacare" debate could put Republicans running for reelection this year in an uncomfortable spot. Their party was unable to repeal and replace the ACA when it controlled Congress, because Republicans couldn't agree among themselves on what a replacement would entail. Democrats rode the issue to win control of the House in the 2018 elections.

It would take the approval of five justices for the Supreme Court to hear the appeal on an expedited schedule.

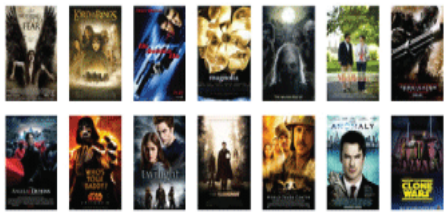
If the justices did take the case, it would mark the third Supreme Court review of the health law. The five justices who upheld the law the previous two times are still on the court.

The District of Columbia joined the 20 Democratic states seeking Supreme Court review.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 49 CALLS ON JAN. 02

Odor Of Natural Gas 2300blk Hill St 12:10 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 26th St 1:14 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 6th St 1:39 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2200blk 6th St 2:00 a.m.
EMS 2700blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:09 a.m.
EMS 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 2:43 a.m.
EMS 900blk 26th St 3:55 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1400blk 5th St 4:25 a.m.
EMS 2600blk Main St 7:05 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 15th St 7:10 a.m.
EMS 2800blk Kansas Ave 7:20 a.m.
EMS 00blk Pico Blvd 7:31 a.m.
EMS 1400blk 17th St 7:53 a.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 8:25 a.m.
EMS 2200blk Virginia Ave 8:41 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 8:47 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1700blk Ocean Ave 9:49 a.m.
EMS 1100blk 3rd St 9:50 a.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 9:57 a.m.
EMS 22nd St / Wilshire Blvd 10:44 a.m.
EMS 1600blk Lincoln Blvd 11:50 a.m.
EMS Lincoln Blvd / Olympic Blvd W 12:08 p.m.
EMS 1100blk 22nd St 12:15 p.m.
EMS 1600blk 7th St 12:37 p.m.
EMS 3100blk Wilshire Blvd 1:20 p.m.
EMS 700blk Idaho Ave 1:36 p.m.
Structure Fire 2600blk 6th St 2:09 p.m.
EMS 2200blk Colorado Ave 3:08 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 3:12 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 1500blk 2nd St 3:35 p.m.
Carbon Monoxide Alarm 1400blk Arizona Ave 4:00 p.m.
EMS 4th St / Pico Blvd 4:30 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 11th St 4:50 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 5:01 p.m.
EMS 800blk 2nd St 5:03 p.m.
EMS 00blk Village Pkwy 5:07 p.m.
EMS 12th St / Wilshire Blvd 5:08 p.m.
EMS 1200blk 6th St 5:27 p.m.
EMS 900blk Pacific Coast Hwy 5:41 p.m.
EMS 1600blk Franklin St 6:33 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2900blk 31st St 6:53 p.m.
EMS 200blk Ocean Ave 7:20 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 8:04 p.m.
EMS 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 8:11 p.m.
EMS 200blk Santa Monica Pier 9:23 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Kansas Ave 10:40 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 11:17 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 3rd St 11:22 p.m.
Hydrant Leak 100blk Fraser Ave 11:54 p.m.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 04)

Home will be revitalized. It's no longer a place to store your things, but where life happens: vibrant get-togethers, the birth of exciting projects and the peace of sweet retreats. A mentor will participate in your success and a key breakthrough will be represented in both your relationship and financial sector. Cancer and Aquarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 33, 27, 12 and 39.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Do you. What they want from you and what you want to give may not exactly match up now, but as you keep doing your thing, they'll learn to expect and want what you most prefer to deliver.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Why did you start this endeavor in the first place? It's interesting to note now that you are a million emotional miles from those early impulses, which had to do with impressing a certain someone...

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Be glad you recognize your own faults. People with faults can always improve, whereas the arrogant who believe they have none will more likely go spiraling into evermore complicated delusions.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Before you waste any time longing for what was, consider whether it really was or not. It's human nature to give the past a sentimental spin. Why not make things more actionable and stand in the present instead?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Who gets to draw the line? The game makers, the city planners, the artists, the fighters, and you. Don't let other people do it for you today, as only you know where your true boundaries lie.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Nothing is falling apart here; nothing is broken. Don't rush, raise your voice or endeavor heroics as all of that is a waste of energy. Things don't need to be saved, just managed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Experience is tricky. You feel like you have control over it some days and other days it feels like life is happening to you or even in spite of you. Remaining in your power has to do with taking the right amount of responsibility.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). What's coming up is quite fantastic, although there's not even a moment to waste in anticipating it as many loose ends still need to be tied. Wrap up the old project and ship it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Once upon a time, you wanted this exact scenario and now you're onto dreaming forward. The best part of the day will be the part where you pause to acknowledge what you have and want it anew.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Things get easier for a multitude of reasons including but not limited to: People learn your wants. You adjust your expectations. You're stronger. Tasks get simplified. You extract more pleasure from this.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The psychological term "projection" is used to describe a defense in which unwanted feelings are displaced onto another person so that they appear as an external threat. It's always solved by changing the film within.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). We assume people are like us when, in fact, each of us has different talents and capability levels within those talents. It will be a joy to stop, observe and assess how wondrously diverse the people around you really are.

Pain and Practical Planets

The gurus suggest others do not cause us pain, rather they bring up the pain that is already in us. Maybe so, but in the moment of pain, people don't usually look too deeply into the matter. That's why working on ourselves is so much easier when we're not currently mired in the thick of it. For instance, now, while practical earth sign energy rules.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION

"I have developed a tremor in my hands, and it embarrasses me. I'm afraid that people will focus on my age and illness and this will undermine my authority. I feel powerless over the changes in my body. It is humiliating. Can you help an aging Gemini?" The infant and the elderly stages of human existence are characterized by their shakiness. The young are unsteady as they figure out how to operate their muscles and command themselves to grasp, sit and walk. The old are unsteady as command and ability drift away. Essentially, the young learn to take control and the old learn to lose it. All along the way we are obtaining and letting go of a different set of abilities and skills, some physical, most emotional, relational and spiritual. The result: a lifetime of shakiness for one reason or another. We want to be dancing. We see dancing as complete control over the vessel. But of course, that's a bore. The excitement is in seeing the vessel move to its limits, and the only way we know we're there is the shake. To live fully is to shake.

CELEBRITY PROFILE

Capricorn Louis Braille changed the world with his invention of a tactile writing system adaptable to almost any language. Braille was a determined Capricorn with communication planet Mercury in Capricorn as well and Venus in future-thinking Aquarius. As a tribute to his accomplishments, NASA has named an asteroid in the innermost regions of the asteroid belt "9969 Braille." **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

WORD UP!

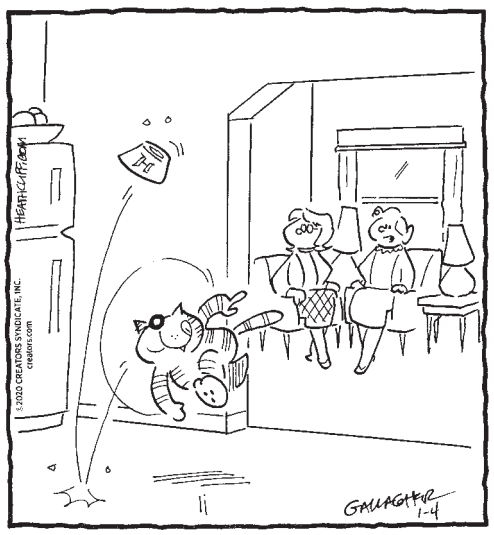
Hibernaculum

Noun

Winter quarters, as of a hibernating animal.

Heathcliff

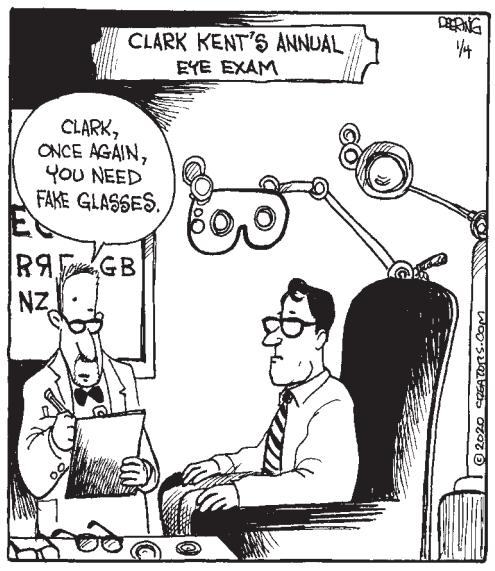
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HE'S A GOOD EATER."

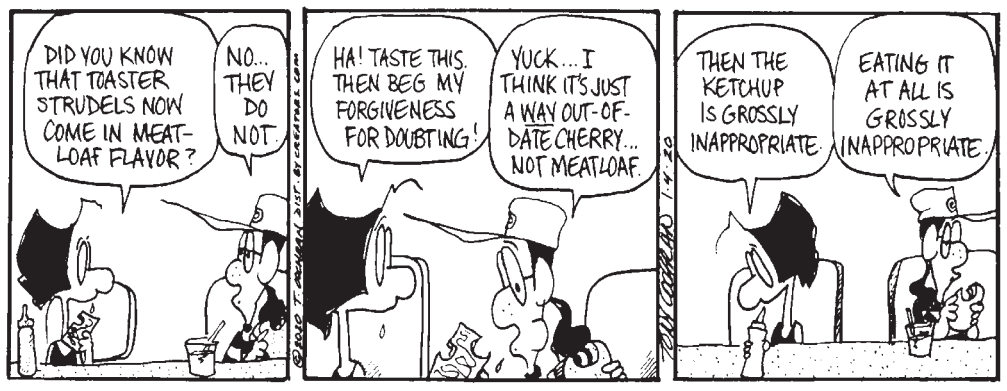
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



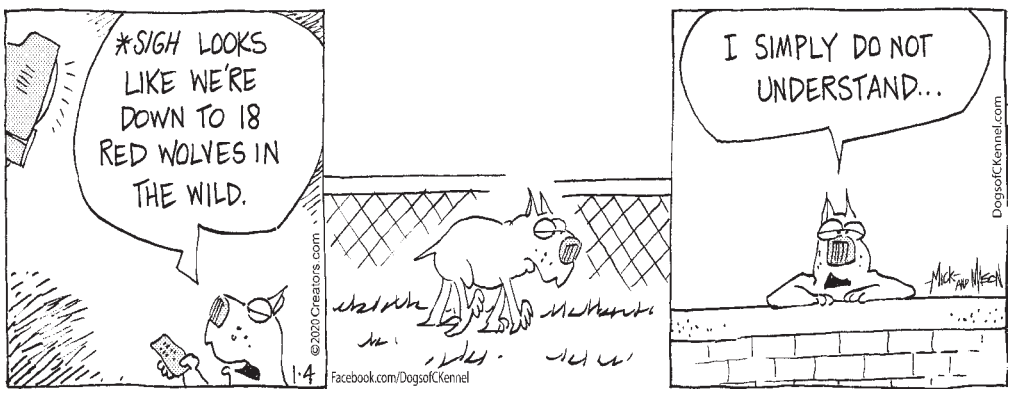
Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



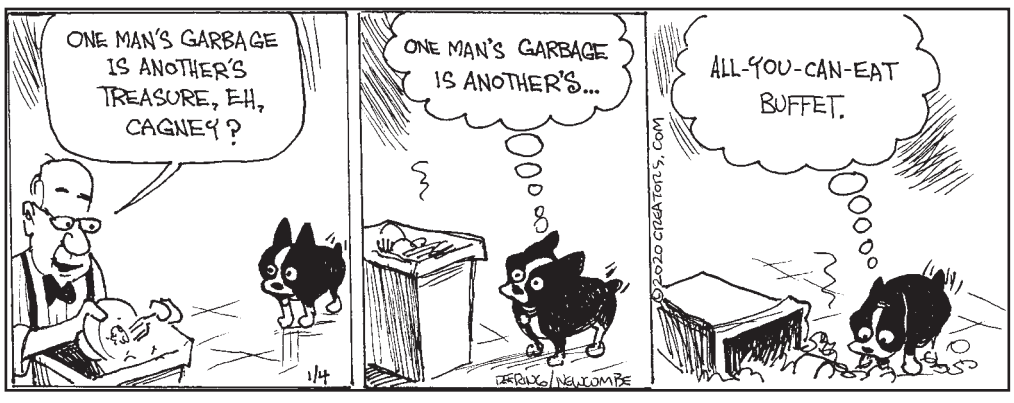
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:01/01
49 53 57 59 62
Power#: 26
Jackpot: 237 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/31
30 44 49 53 56
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 60 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 01/01
4 9 17 35 40
Mega#: 8
Jackpot: 10 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 01/03
1 7 12 21 33

Daily 3
Draw Date: 01/02
Evening: 1 5 8

Draw Date: 01/02
Midday: 1 8 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 01/02
1st: 06 - WHIRL WIN
2nd: 03 - HOT SHOT
3rd: 11 - MONEY BAGS
RACE TIME: 1:49.68

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.7°

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
WNW swell continues to ease. AM winds looking favorable.

SUNDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Reinforcing NW swell-mix.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

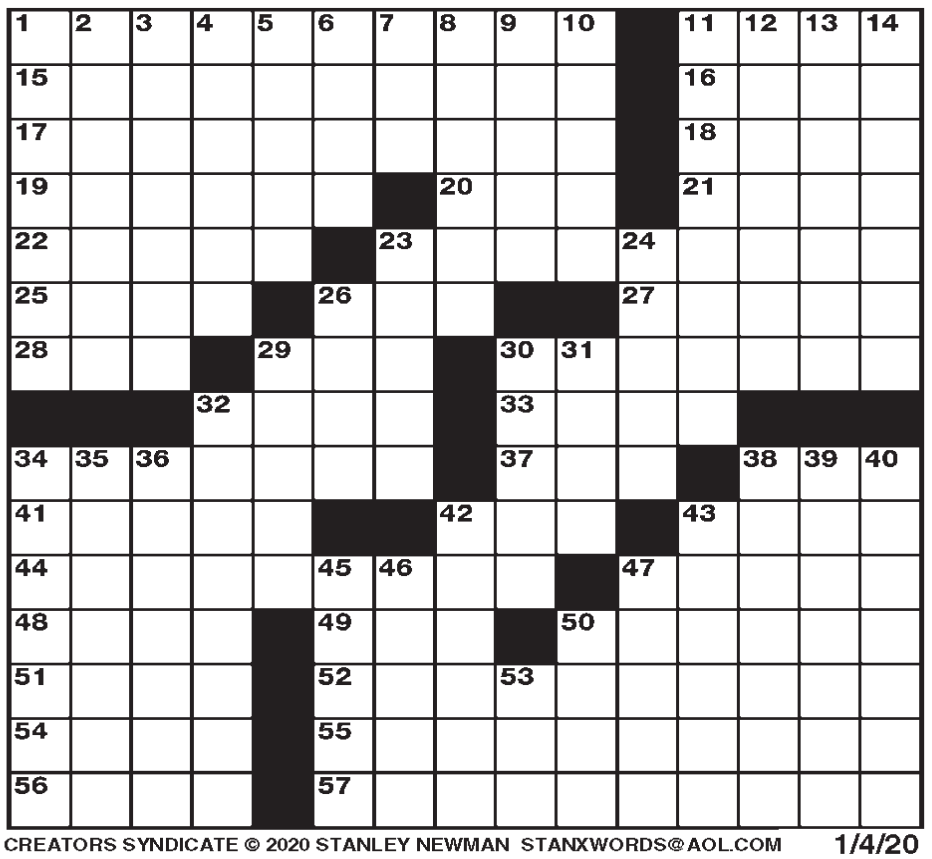
7		2				3		5
4				7				2
					3		7	
	7			1			2	
9			7		8			3
	6			3			1	
	4		3					
3				8				4
8		9				6		7

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Anna Stiga
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Chooser's challenge
11 Identifies
15 Imitative
16 Unusually fine
17 Old name for the giraffe
18 "Come Back to __" (Hibernian ballad)
19 Western lake bed
20 NASA name of the '90s
21 Bill sources
22 Radiates
23 Richard Burton Shakespearean role of '67
25 It stands for 1
26 What 7 may be used instead of
27 Unmitigated
28 *Crusade in Europe* author's monogram
29 Destructive person
30 Popular bar since the '20s
32 Fell
33 It has a head and hops
34 Doctor's office display
37 Regatta trophy
38 Golden: Fr.
41 Syndication offering
42 Hair __
43 It may be full of baloney
44 Neon sign seen in Looney Tunes
47 Sneezin' reason
48 Blackout, for instance
49 Bottom-row key
50 Sled-dog wear
51 Keen perception
52 Absence of ease
54 Eye
55 Bogy
56 "Sour grapes can __ make sweet wine" (English proverb)
57 Fixed

DOWN
1 Go far
2 Clean
3 Salad ingredient
4 Fairly
5 Works up
6 *Nightmare Before Christmas* aide
7 Thimbleful
8 Hardest human tissue
9 Swiss-born revolutionary
10 Berry beginning
11 Bing Crosby Oscar role
12 Clayey
13 Not as clean
14 Like some overloads
23 Gang members
24 Herald, with "in"
26 Daisy Duck niece
29 Go to often
30 Ersatz duck calls
31 Reconcile
32 Homesteader relative
34 Introducer of "Trouble" (1957)
35 Escape of a sort
36 A, for one
38 Guevara portrayer in '08
39 Get pizza, perhaps
40 Cake decorator's design
42 Understands
43 Walk
45 Wears down
46 Fruit favored by Horace
47 Freebies
50 Anchor officer
53 Second-century date



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6197

AW19-1032

POLICY

FROM PAGE 1

concerns such as health care, the economy and immigration. The narrow focus reflects the relative inexperience of the large Democratic field on the international stage as well as voters' priorities after nearly two decades at war.

But the rising tension with Iran is shifting the debate just a month before voting begins in Iowa. That new debate is likely to revive fights between centrist Democrats and Democrats on the left who are skeptical of military intervention.

Biden, who has more foreign policy experience than the rest of the field combined, could benefit from the sudden attention to global affairs, though his long record in complicated foreign entanglements creates vulnerabilities that critics in both parties are trying to exploit.

That intraparty fight starring Biden had begun even before Trump authorized the strike that killed Soleimani.

Earlier in the week, Pete Buttigieg — the now-former mayor of South Bend, Indiana — criticized Biden for voting to authorize the Iraq War, calling it part of the nation's "worst foreign policy decision" of the 37-year-old's lifetime. On Friday, Buttigieg, a former military intelligence officer, didn't call out Biden by name but made reference to the Iraq War while addressing the airstrike: "This must not be the beginning of another endless war."

Facing voters in Iowa on Friday, Sanders noted his opposition to the Iraq War and reiterated his warnings from over a decade ago that U.S. intervention there would destabilize the region. He said the outcome in Iraq should act as a guide for foreign policy now.

"We face a similar crossroads fraught with danger," Sanders said, insisting that the U.S. must commit to ending its military presence in the Middle East.

Biden, meanwhile, was largely silent Friday. He charged during a recent bus tour in Iowa that foreign policy isn't in his Democratic opponents' "wheelhouse," but he said little about his foreign policy experience during a Thursday appearance in Iowa as tensions with Iran were escalating.

He addressed the issue Friday in a fundraising message, asking donors to chip in at least $5 after warning that the nation "could now be on the brink of a major conflict across the Middle East."

"Today also marks one month until the Iowa caucus — the first step toward deciding the Democratic presidential nominee," Biden wrote. "It's more clear than ever that we need strong, steady, experienced leadership."

Trump said he ordered the killing of Soleimani because the general had killed and wounded many Americans over the years and was plotting to kill many more. "He should have been taken out many years ago," he added.

Democratic strategist Jesse Ferguson described foreign policy and national security as a "threshold issue" for Democratic candidates.

"They may not win the race on national security and foreign policy, but they have to pass a threshold of competence, strength and vision that gives voters comfort that they can be commander in chief," he said. "In comparison to Trump, Democrats have an opportunity to look strong and reasonable as opposed to reckless and feckless."

With political risk abounding, Democrats were careful to acknowledge the threat posed by Soleimani as they lashed out at Trump.

Warren called the Iranian general "a murderer, responsible for the deaths of thousands, including hundreds of Americans," though she issued a subsequent statement focusing exclusively on criticizing Trump.

Buttigieg described Soleimani as someone with "blood on his hands from countless operations against American interests," while noting that "taking out a bad guy is not a good idea unless you are ready for what comes next."

As Democrats tried to coalesce around a consistent message, the Republican National Committee pounced, issuing a statement titled "Dems fail first foreign policy test of 2020."

RNC spokesman Steve Guest took a swipe at the entire Democratic field but singled out Biden by name. He noted that the former vice president also opposed the raid that killed Osama bin Laden in 2011.

"At a time when America needs decisive and bold leadership, thankfully President Trump is the one in the Oval Office," Guest said. "What 2020 Democrats offer is a reversal to the failed foreign policy of the past."

Peoples reported from New York. Associated Press writers Alexandra Jaffe in Anamosa, Iowa, Bill Barrow in Atlanta and Thomas Beaumont in Des Moines, Iowa, contributed to this report.

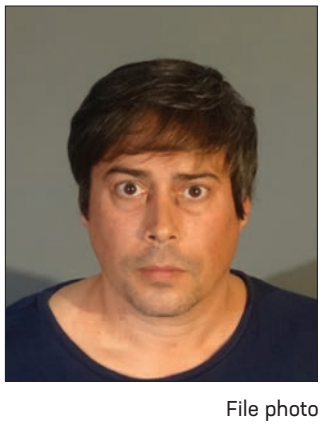
CRIME WATCH

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 8, 2019 AT APPROXIMATELY 2:45 A.M.

Officers responded to the Bayside Hotel located in the 2000 block of Ocean because a male subject was fighting with hotel security. Upon arrival officers observed the hotel security guard and the suspect on the ground in a struggle. The suspect had set off the fire alarm and was refusing to leave. Officers attempted to gain control of the suspect but he refused to stop moving and kicking. He continually attempted to break away from the officers' grip. He refused to comply with all commands. Other units arrived on scene and were able to gain physical control of the suspect's arms and legs in order to handcuff him. Matthew Winton Davenport, 41, from Florida, was arrested for resisting arrest, public intoxication, activating a false alarm and tampering with fire alarm equipment. Bail was set at $10,000.



File photo

MATTHEW WINTON DAVENPORT

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