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Volume 19 Issue 51

Shooting guilty plea
A man was accused of shooting a victim in Venice.
Page 6

Ranting, raving and attacking
A homeless man attacked a victim on the Promenade.
Page 11

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Primer: Coastal Commission

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

Editor's Note: The Daily Press is launching a new weekly series, Primer. Each Saturday, our reporters will explain an institution, law, issue or trend that impacts Santa Monica. To suggest a topic, email editor@smdp.com.

The California coast is one of the most lucrative real estate markets on the planet. But if you want to build anything within sight of the ocean, you need a permit from the California Coastal Commission, a quasi-judicial agency unlike any other in the United States.

The Coastal Commission was established by ballot initiative in 1972 and the California Coastal Act of 1976 enshrined its power to regulate the coast in perpetuity. The 12 voting members of the commission are appointed by the governor and the state legislature.

The commission's mission is to protect, conserve, restore and enhance the environment of the coastal zone, which typically extends 1,000 yards inland from the ocean. In urban areas, its jurisdiction is smaller; in Santa Monica, the commission grants final approval to projects west of 4th Street between Adelaide Drive and Pico Boulevard and west of Lincoln Boulevard from Pico Boulevard to city limits.

In addition to environmental preservation, the California Coastal Act charges the commission with maintaining public access to the ocean. The public is allowed to use any land below the mean high tide line — in other words, anyone may walk on wet sand — and everyone is supposed to be able to access the water every thousand feet down the coast. The commission has a history of fining homeowners for restricting beach access.

Maintaining public access also includes preserving low- and middle-income housing and accommodations in the coastal zone. The commission can't set prices for hotels or homes, but it can deny applications to replace affordable lodging with luxury retreats.

The commission hasn't shied away from that responsibility. Last year, it fined a Santa Monica hotel $15.5 million — the largest fine in the commission's history — because the owners built an upscale hotel without the proper permits.

SEE **COASTAL COMMISSION** PAGE 11



Courtesy image

ZONE: The Coastal Commission has jurisdiction along the coast.

Homeless find help at the Write Place

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

From family literacy to technology education, the Santa Monica Public Library has always sought to provide programs that could help local residents tackle any of the challenges that life throws at them.

Officials say as long as library patrons adhere to the code of conduct, everyone is welcome to find a place to read, relax and learn in any of the city's five branches. But residents who identify as homeless oftentimes need more, according to Marc Morgenstern, former chair of the Santa Monica Library Board, and thanks to the longtime Santa Monica resident, they're getting it at the Write Place.

"As the past chair of the Santa

SEE **HELP** PAGE 7



Photo courtesy City of Santa Monica

WRITE: Marc Morgenstern is a 12-year Santa Monica resident and former chair of the Santa Monica Library Board. Last year he started a writing workshop to create a space for homeless writers to come together.

Judge orders homeless women to leave house they're occupying

JANIE HAR
Associated Press

Homeless women who are illegally occupying a house in the expensive San Francisco Bay Area do not have the right to stay and must leave within five days, a judge ruled Friday.

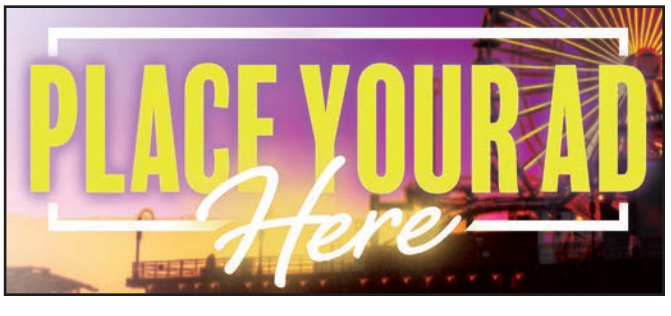
Alameda County Superior Court Judge Patrick McKinney previously issued a tentative ruling in favor of Wedgewood Inc., a real estate investment group that bought the Oakland property at a foreclosure auction last year.

Still, he allowed lawyers for one of the women, Dominique Walker, and her recently formed collective, Moms 4 Housing, to make their case. They argued that housing is a right and that the court must give the women the right to possess the house, especially because it sat vacant for so long and the alternative would be to send the women to live

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 7

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OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, January 11

Fireside at the Miles - Contemporary Guitar Night

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

Ukulele Saturdays! for Teens & Adults

Heidi Swedberg teaches you how to play "the happiest instrument in the world." Each session begins with a mini lesson, followed by a strum-along with your favorite songs. Bring your own ukulele or use one of ours. Space and instruments are limited and on a first-arrival basis. Main Library. 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.

Movie and Discussion: Living While Dying (2017)

Join organizers for a documentary that chronicles life and death, and finding joy in the journey. A panel discussion with film director follows the screening. (Film runtime: 45 min.) 2 - 3:30 p.m. Main Library.

LEGO Build and Race

Design and build your own creation and race others to see which one goes faster! Ages 4-12. 3 - 4 p.m. Montana Avenue Branch Library

Snowfall 2020!

The frosty flurries are set to magically transform our community into a fun winter snow play day where noses are cold, and mittens are required. Join Police Department, Virginia Avenue Park and Santa Monica Public Library for a blustery bounty of fun that includes arts & crafts, snow cones, inflatable snow globe photo booth, story times with Police Officers, Librarians, and more! Pico Branch Library, 12 - 4 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 12

New Poems for a New Decade with Dinah Berland

The Camera Obscura Poetry Workshop with Dinah Berland will launch its fourth year at the Art Lab. Members of the class will meet for six sessions on alternate Sunday afternoons to read poetry by a diverse selection of master poets, analyze the work to see how it was made, write new poems in response to prompts in class, and practice polishing their own drafts. Poets at all levels are invited join, or rejoin, the ongoing band of Camera Obscura Poets and let the new poems emerge! Cost: $90 - $20 drop-in fee available. Sundays 1/12, 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/8 & 3/22. 2-4 pm. Register online at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/78090

Intro to Hat Making with Leslie Robinson

Learn the art of Millinery and Hat Making during this two session course. Professional Milliner, Leslie Robinson will guide you in the basics and more advanced techniques of shaping a wool base using traditional hat blocks. The second session will allow students to finish and trim their pieces. A focus will be placed on affordably sourcing materials and information so that participants can continue in their own pursuits, should they wish to make more hats in this highly accessible medium. Returning students are welcome, as they may try different techniques and styles. Cost: $60 + $30 cash material fee payable to instructor. Sundays 1/12 & 1/19, 1 - 4 p.m. Register online at https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/78139

DoAnn's Meditation and Breathing

Six meditations from the very basic to the advanced will be taught. Dr. Kaneko's meditation style is based on a traditional Taoist style that he customized for an easier and more practical approach. It involves lying on the back or sitting, and even some standing or walking. Sundays, 1/12 - 3/1 10:45-11:45 a.m. Cost: $143 / $164 | 8-week series. To register, visit https://apm.activecommunities.com/santamonicarecreation/Activity_Search/75959 or call 310-458-2239.

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

Independents could decide California's Democratic primary

KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

In the battle for the Democratic presidential nomination, no prize is bigger than California, which offers more delegates than any other state. And as candidates plot their strategies here, there's an overlooked group of voters who could be key to victory: independents.

More than 5 million voters not registered in a party are eligible to participate in California's March 3 Democratic primary, the second most of any state that votes on Super Tuesday, after Texas. These voters flexed their power during the 2018 midterms, helping California Democrats flip seven U.S. House seats long held by Republicans.

Such a vast pool of potential supporters is a tantalizing prospect for any White House hopeful. But tapping them won't be easy because of complicated election rules and the unfamiliarity many voters have with participating in presidential primaries so early in the contest. Success will require candidates to have a sophisticated organization in California even as they spend much of their time focusing on the early voting states that will kick off the primary season next month.

"It's the critical X-factor in a California presidential primary," said Ace Smith, a political consultant who helped run California Sen. Kamala Harris' presidential campaign last year and led Hillary Clinton's 2016 California operation.

So far, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and billionaire Michael Bloomberg have been most aggressive in pursuing independents. Sanders, the independent senator who has thrived on anti-establishment enthusiasm, is urging his California supporters to become Democrats, despite the fact that they can vote for him as independents. At a December rally, he walked the audience through changing their voter affiliation, telling them to use the secretary of state's website.

His campaign argues that this approach ensures voters get the ballots they need, rather than having to take additional steps, as independents must. Californians can change their party registration until Feb. 18. The campaign is also adding a feature on its mobile app that will let supporters look up the party registrations of friends and family, so that they can send them instructions on how to vote for Sanders.

"They're a very important block of voters," said Rafael Návar, who runs Sanders' California campaign. "They're the base that is going to be supportive of the politics of the senator."

Bloomberg is essentially ceding the traditional early voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina to stake his campaign — and his vast wealth — on a strong Super Tuesday showing.

"We're building the largest field and outreach effort in California presidential primary history, including an extensive effort to ensure that non-affiliated voters can have their voice heard in choosing the next Democratic nominee," Bloomberg's California spokesman Drew Godinich said in an emailed statement. He declined to provide more details.

A spokeswoman for Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, said the campaign is reaching out to independents across the country generally but not doing anything specific to educate Californians on how to pull Democratic ballots. A spokeswoman for Tom Steyer, the California philanthropist, said independents are supporting Steyer, but she provided no details on outreach efforts.

Representatives for former Vice President Joe Biden and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren didn't answer questions about their efforts to target these voters.

While they are eligible to vote in the Democratic primary, independents must take steps to do so. Those who show up at a polling place will be given an option to get a ballot for the Democratic primary. But the roughly 4 million independents who are expected to vote by mail must affirmatively ask for a ballot, either by returning a form in the mail, calling or emailing county elections officials.

As of last week, just 8% of independents who vote by mail had asked for a ballot in the presidential primary, according to data collection by Paul Mitchell, who runs the nonpartisan Political Data Inc., which collects and sells voter data to campaigns. Not all counties had reported data.

Complicating matters is the fact that for most elections, Californians are accustomed to open primaries in which all the candidates appear on the same ballot, regardless of party. Many may not know that the presidential race runs differently. The state also moved up its primary from June to March, and the earlier voting could catch some people by surprise.

Other Super Tuesday states also have a patchwork of voting rules that campaigns must understand.

Minnesota will hold its first presidential primary since 1992. Early voting there begins on Jan. 17, and some voters could face confusion. While voters don't have to declare party affiliation for state primaries, they will have to pick a side for the presidential contest.

Colorado, meanwhile, has taken a different approach and will mail every independent voter a ballot for both the Democratic and Republican primaries, letting them choose which to vote in.

Despite the complexities, strategists say it will pay off for candidates to pay attention to independents, especially in voter-rich states like California.

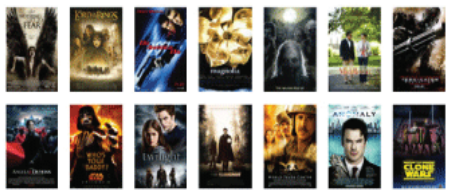
Candidates must earn support from 15% of voters in a congressional district to gain the delegates that will determine who wins the nomination. And since California has more congressional districts than any other state, independents could make the difference between clinching much-needed delegates or leaving the state empty-handed.

"If they're targeting certain congressional districts, they're not having to beat their opponent by 100,000 votes," Mitchell said. "Delegates are going to be won on the margins up and down the state."

In California, 240,000 independents cast ballots in the 2016 primary between Sanders and Clinton. Four years later, there are twice as many independent voters in the state, and most are likely to vote Democratic in the general election.

"It's really millions of potentially disenfranchised primary voters who are just there for the taking if you can identify them and turn them out," said Dan Newman, a California political consultant who previously worked at a firm that ran Clinton's campaign in the state.

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How independents can vote in California presidential primary

KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

More than 5 million independent voters, called "no party preference" in California, are eligible to vote in the March 3 presidential primary. Here's what you need to know:

WHO CAN THEY VOTE FOR?

The Democratic, Libertarian and American Independent parties allow California voters without a party to vote in their presidential primaries. The American Independent party is a conservative political party, but voters sometimes get confused by its name. The Republican, Green and Peace and Freedom parties don't let voters outside the party into their primaries. If someone wants to vote in one of those primaries, they will need to change their registration.

HOW DO THEY GET A BALLOT?

Independents must affirmatively ask for a presidential primary ballot to get one. If someone votes in person at a polling place, they'll be asked by poll workers if they want a presidential ballot.

People who vote by mail will receive a notice from their county in the mail asking if they want a presidential primary ballot, and they must return it with a party selected. Many of these notices have already gone out. If a voter doesn't get one, or accidentally throws it away, they can also request a ballot by calling, emailing or faxing their county elections office. If their ballot comes in the mail and does not include a presidential contest, they can request another and wait until that ballot comes to vote. Voters can also exchange the black ballot without presidential candidates at a vote center or polling place.

HOW DO I CHECK MY VOTER STATUS?

People can check their voter registration at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov. California now automatically registers people to vote when they visit the Department of Motor Vehicles, so some people may not know they are registered. Californians can change their party registration until Feb. 18.

That page will also tell you whether you are registered to vote by mail. The majority of California voters now vote by mail. California will begin mailing out ballots for the March primary on Feb. 3, the same day as the Iowa caucuses.

Voters can also visit howtovoteforpresident.sos.ca.gov for more information on how to vote.

WHAT HAPPENED TO CALIFORNIA'S TOP-TWO PRIMARIES?

California still conducts top-two primaries, where all candidates are on the same ballot, regardless of party, for local, state and Congressional elections. But the presidential primary operates differently.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

While the technical deadline to register to vote is Feb. 18, voters can register all the way through Election Day. Their registration will be conditional, meaning their vote won't be counted until elections officials can verify that they are eligible to vote.

Contact info for county elections offices is available at https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/county-elections-offices/

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California budget plan aids teachers, those in US illegally

ADAM BEAM AND DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

California Gov. Gavin Newsom wants to give $20,000 stipends to teachers at high needs schools and extend health care to older low-income immigrants who are in the country illegally. He outlined the plans during an announcement Friday of his $329 billion budget proposal.

The Democratic governor is proposing a continued progressive agenda as he defended California's progress against criticism from national naysayers in the wake of devastating wildfires, widespread power outages and a soaring homeless population.

His proposed budget increases spending by 2.3% or about $5 billion, but also boosts state reserves for any economic downturn. It includes $222 billion in state money and $107 billion in federal funds.

His teacher incentives, which would be given for four years, alone would eat up $100 million, but Newsom said it's worth the money.

"It's incredibly important that we have a diverse teaching workforce," he said, "not only have stable, prepared, professional teachers, but also having a teacher that looks like you. That's incredibly important, particularly when it comes to African American achievement."

His immigration proposal would provide health care for 27,000 older low-income immigrants who are in the country illegally.

California last year became the first state to offer full health benefits to low-income adults 25 and younger living in the country illegally. The deep-blue state of nearly 40 million people has about 3 million people who don't have any health insurance. About 30% of those are living in the country illegally, according to the California Health Care Foundation.

"We can't solve the health care crisis if we don't include them," Democratic state Sen. Maria Elena Durazo said in lobbying for benefits to people 65 and older in the country illegally.

In 2016, California offered full health benefits to children 18 and younger regardless of immigration status. Newsom's proposal continues to keep the state at odds with the federal government's immigration policies.

The state's Democratic Senate leader, Toni Atkins, cited Newsom's proposal for "record funding for education, solid reserves, relief for small businesses, and innovative ideas on climate change, public safety, health care and many other issues" as part of a budget plan "so in sync with California values."

Newsom's budget includes a $5.6 billion surplus and $21 billion in reserves for any economic downturn.

Newsom already provided details on key areas of his budget in recent days, outlining steps to curb homelessness, wildfires and the cost of prescription drugs.

On Friday he declared himself the state's "homeless czar," after promising a year ago to appoint one, while striking back at President Donald Trump's repeated criticism of the state's Democratic leaders for not doing enough.

"He's tweeting, we're doing something," Newsom said. "We don't need him to identify this problem."

He signed an executive order Wednesday creating a proposed $750 million fund to pay rents, fund affordable housing or help board and care homes. He's seeking another $695 million in state and federal matching funds for preventive health care, but some of the money could also go to helping people find housing. And he ordered state agencies to free vacant state property to house homeless people.

Assembly Budget Committee vice chairman Jay Obernolte, a Republican from Hesperia, praised Newsom's emphasis on homelessness, but said the state must also address housing affordability and the state's skyrocketing cost of living.

"Both of these problems have their roots in oppressive state government policies, and neither will be solved until we realize that addressing the issue of homelessness requires ensuring that everyone can afford a home rather than simply moving people into shelters.," Obernolte said in a statement.

On Thursday Newsom proposed having California become the first state to make its own prescription drugs, to "take the power out of the hands of greedy pharmaceutical companies." California would contract with generic drug companies to create a single market for drug pricing.

He separately proposed hiring 555 firefighters over five years and spending $100 million to make homes more resistant to wildfires as part of a $2 billion emergency services budget that also includes flood protection and high-tech mapping including areas prone to wildfires, floods, tsunamis and mudslides.

His budget introduction is the first step in approving a spending plan. In May, Newsom will revise his plan once state officials have a better estimate of how much money the state will collect in taxes this year. State lawmakers have until June 15 to vote on the proposal and send it to the governor for his approval. Lawmakers forfeit their pay if they miss the deadline.

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Bloomberg adds 3 key hires in delegate-rich California

KATHLEEN RONAYNE
Associated Press

Michael Bloomberg is adding three experienced California Democrats to his presidential campaign in the state that awards the most primary delegates, including the former head of Sen. Kamala Harris' state campaign operation.

Courtni Pugh, who led Harris' strategy in the senator's home state, is joining Bloomberg's team as a senior adviser focused on paid media targeting constituency groups such as Latino and black voters, the campaign announced Friday. Bloomberg also has hired Crystal Strait, the former head of the state's Planned Parenthood chapter, as political director, and Alex Gallardo Rooker, a vice chair of the state Democratic party, as a senior adviser.

Strait, who also has worked for the state party and former California Sen. Barbara Boxer, said she's joining the campaign because she believes Bloomberg is the party's best chance of beating President Donald Trump.

"Winning is the only thing that we need to be focused on right now," she said.

Bloomberg, the former New York City mayor and billionaire businessman, launched his campaign in November and is counting on success in California to capture the nomination. He is skipping the first four early voting states to focus his energy on California and the other states that vote on Super Tuesday, held on March 3.

His latest hires join Chris Masami Myers, who heads his California operation and previously served as executive director of the state party.

Bloomberg's pattern of bringing on operatives with party experience could bring his campaign needed expertise on the party's rules for picking up delegates. California has more than 400 delegates, the most of any state.

But Bloomberg's rivals have also been flexing their muscles in the heavily Democratic state. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti endorsed former Vice President Joe Biden on Thursday, just days after appearing with Bloomberg. Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, meanwhile, is aggressively campaigning in the state, holding rallies often and targeting California's 5 million independent voters, who can vote in the Democratic primary.

Harris ended her 2020 presidential campaign in November, saying her team didn't have the financial resources necessary to continue.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Venice

Man Pleads to Shooting at Venice Bar

A 48-year-old man pleaded no contest today to shooting a man during an argument at a Venice bar, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Robert Leo Mewhorter (dob 8/10/71), a transient, entered the plea to one count of attempted murder and admitted allegations of using a handgun and causing great bodily injury.

Sentencing is scheduled on Jan. 15 in Department W70 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Airport Branch. Mewhorter faces 22 years in state prison.

On March 7, 2018, Mewhorter got into an argument at a Venice bar, prosecutors said. The defendant left and returned soon after and opened fire, injuring the victim, prosecutors added.

Case SA097575 was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department, Pacific Division.

SUBMITTED BY RICARDO SANTIAGO, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

SMC

Parvaneh Bassiri, Marty Luber, and Alex Vital Exhibition Opening Reception Jan. 23 at SMC's Emeritus Art Gallery

The Santa Monica College Emeritus Art Gallery presents an exhibition of creative works by Emeritus students Parvaneh Bassiri, Marty Luber, and Alex Vital. The exhibition is open to the public from Thursday, January 23, to Wednesday, February 25, with an opening reception from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 23. Both the exhibition and opening reception are free.

The SMC Emeritus Art Gallery is located on the first floor of the SMC Emeritus Campus, 1227 Second St., in downtown Santa Monica. Parking is available next door in Santa Monica Public Parking Structure No. 2.

"This is an exciting mix of artists who are very comfortable using color, humor, style, and post-modern sensibilities in their work," said Emeritus Gallery director Jesse Benson. "The show will feature abstract and figurative oil paintings by Parvaneh Bassiri, eclectic mixed media light-infused Pop sculptures by Marty Luber, digitally enhanced and altered photographs by Alex Vital, and maybe a surprise or two."

SMC Emeritus Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For information, please call 310-434-4306.

SMC's widely praised Emeritus program – founded by Santa Monica College in 1975 as a noncredit program to serve the lifelong learning interests of older adults – offers more than 120 noncredit adult education classes and special programs that serve more than 3,000 students each year.

SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

HELP

FROM PAGE 1

Monica Library Board, I knew how our libraries offered a safe environment, dedicated social workers, and mental health and other referrals to those experiencing homelessness. As a volunteer teacher at UCLA's Word Commandos — a writing workshop for veterans suffering from PTSD at the West LA VA — I saw firsthand how creative writing can help homeless individuals find their voice and articulate their feelings in a therapeutic way," Morgenstern said in a recent Q&A. Those two experiences met to become the inspiration for Write Place, a writing workshop held for people experiencing homelessness.

Library administrators were immediately receptive to starting a pilot program when the idea was first introduced, according to Morgenstern. And after witnessing how successful the program was, Morgenstern now hopes to hold a public reading at the library in the Spring that will allow participants to share their Write Place work with the world.

"Despite the challenges homeless individuals face on the streets, my initial goal was to get our participants writing in whatever format they preferred — song lyrics, play, poem, memoir, or fiction," Morgenstern said. "In our first sessions, we focused on creating a trusting atmosphere where everyone could feel free to share their work for feedback. The writing soon started to flow from their composition books, inspired in part by readings and discussions of short stories by writers such as Ernest Hemingway, Alice Walker and Tobias Wolff."

During his time with workshop participants, Morgenstern said he learned how kind and supportive people can be for each other.

"They consistently give constructive and thoughtful feedback on each other's writing, such as how to improve dialogue or refine the rhythm of a song lyric. But beyond the writing, they often share food and clothing, as well as advice on how to stay safe and warm on the streets," Morgenstern said. "I've also learned that these writers don't solely define themselves by their homelessness," and they have many things they wish to express through their writing.

Morgenstern added he now knows that people fall into homelessness for all kinds of reasons, ranging from health problems to family issues to economic distress.

"No one wants to be homeless but the line between sleeping on the street or under a roof is a very thin one," he said, stating he's also come to understand how important libraries are since they often serve as a vital refuge for those who are in need.

"It's so easy for the homeless to feel invisible in a city full of people in a hurry," Morgenstern said, but he encourages everybody to look those on the streets in the eye and say good morning because small, humane gestures mean far more than one may ever know.

brennon@smdp.com

HOMELESS

FROM PAGE 1

on the streets.

The judge denied Walker's request to offer expert testimony on the right to housing through federal and international law.

"The court recognizes the importance of these issues but, as raised in connection with Ms. Walker's claim of right to possession, finds that they are outside the scope of this proceeding," McKinney wrote.

The case reflects California's severe housing shortage and growing numbers of homeless people. Federal officials said last month that an uptick in the country's homeless population was driven entirely by a 16% increase in California, where the median sales price of a home is $500,000 and is even higher in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The women and their children moved into the three-bedroom house in November, partly to protest the methods of speculators who they say snap up distressed homes and leave them empty despite the housing crisis.

"Wedgewood takes no pleasure in having the sheriff enforce the court's order to evict the squatters," company spokesman Sam Singer said in a statement. "The solution to Oakland's housing crisis is not the redistribution of citizens' homes through illegal break-ins and seizures by squatters."

The women are not surprised by the ruling but have no plans to leave the house, their lawyer said.

"We understand that the court's hands are tied because in this country property rights are valued over human rights," said Leah Simon-Weisberg, an attorney from the Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment, which is helping the women in court.

If they won't leave voluntarily, sheriff's deputies would force them out within five days. The women will hold a press conference later Friday.

Moms 4 Housing interrupted an Oakland press conference this week on legislation to boost housing construction, shouting "affordable housing now." The women, who have gotten support from some lawmakers, want Redondo Beach-based Wedgewood to sell the property to a nonprofit land trust.

Walker, 34, who has 1- and 5-year-old daughters, has said she moved back to her native Oakland from Mississippi last year but could not find a place to live in the pricey market. She said many of the people who used to live in her neighborhood have been forced out by rising prices.

"Housing is a human right. I pay bills there. I pay water, PG&E, internet. We live there," Walker said. "We want to purchase the home ... it needs to belong back in the hands of the community. It was stolen through the foreclosure crisis."

Wedgewood purchased the home for $501,000 and took possession days after the women moved in, Singer said. The 1908 house has one bathroom and is about 1,500 square feet (139 square meters).

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The annual count is used by federal and regional agencies to identify communities that are contributing to overall reductions in homelessness and to allocate resources accordingly.
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Photo by Dan Baccelliere

DONATION: Santa Monica Elks 906 donated $2000 to the Westside Food Bank. The donation will make up 8000 meals according to the founder Barry Glaser. The Elks have been connected to the food bank since its inception in 1981. Pictured is Barry Glaser, Exalted Ruler Jaynee Roszhart and R.A. Pickett, PAVP.

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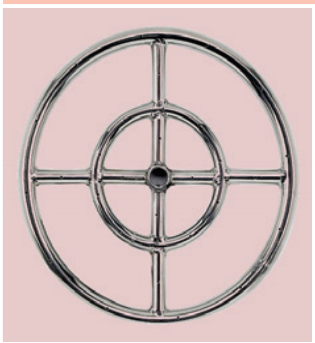
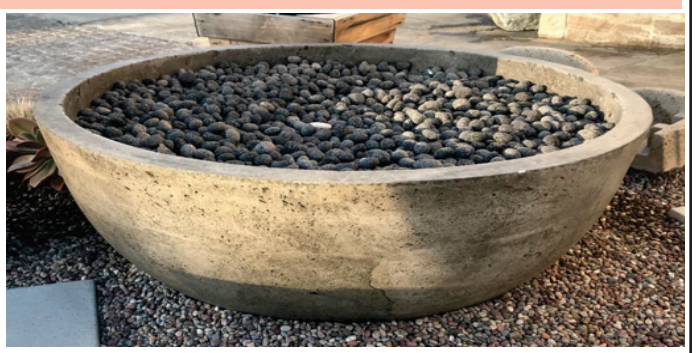
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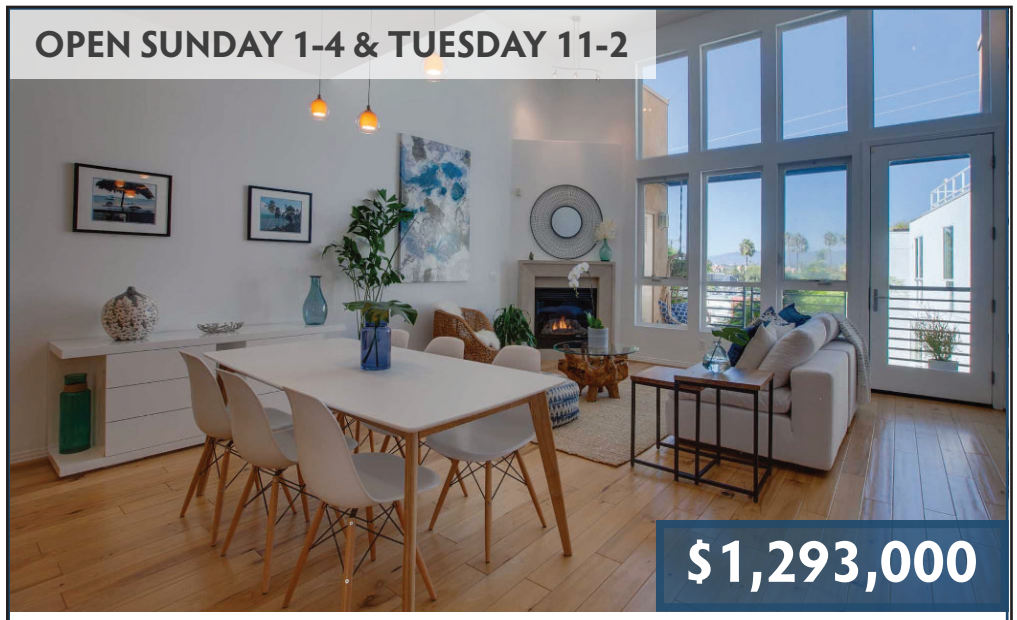

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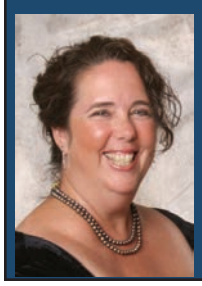


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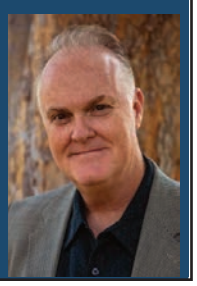
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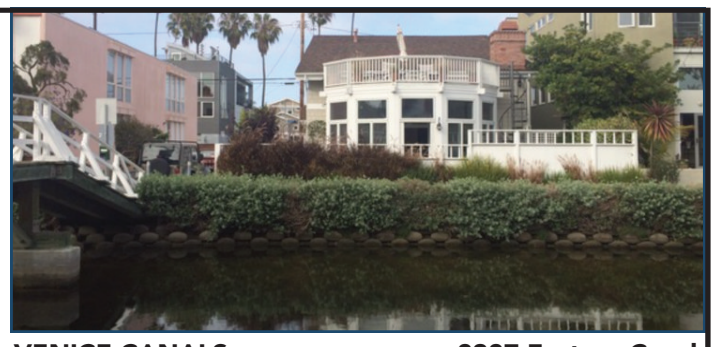


Santa Monica Living – Come Get It!

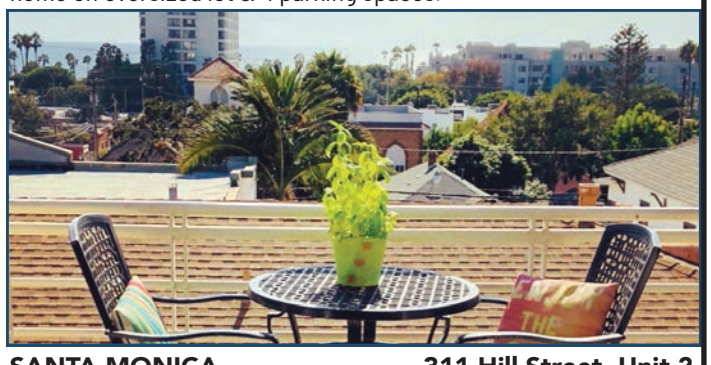
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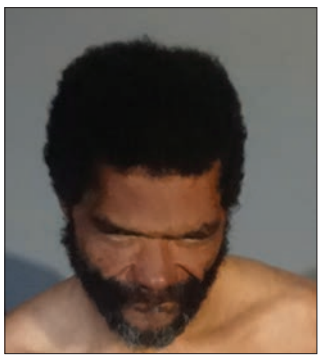
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CRIME WATCH BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON DECEMBER 22, 2019 AT 5:30 P.M.

On December 22, 2019 at approximately 7 a.m. Officers responded to the 1200 block of the 3rd Street Promenade for a Battery call. Upon arrival they met with the victim who shared she was walking on the promenade when she observed a male suspect ranting and raving. As the male got close to the victim, she told the male suspect to stay away from her. The male then pushed her on the back of the head with enough force to knock her to the ground where she sustained a laceration to her face and hand. Officers were able to provide a description of the suspect who was found in the area by assisting officers. Maurice Antonio Braggs, 46, homeless, was arrested for elder abuse and a probation violation.



File photo

MAURICE ANTONIO BRAGGS

CRIME WATCH UPDATES BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Jerod Bruce Durham appeared in Crime Watch on Jan. 6 for a narcotics and warrant arrest. He remains in jail without bail.

Matthew Winton Davenport appears in Crime Watch on Jan. 4 for resisting arrest, public intoxication and activating a fire alarm. He was released on $10,000 bail following his arrest.

Melody Kay Mann appeared in Crime Watch on Jan. 3 for obstructing an arrest, sitting in an entrance and a parole violation. She remains in jail with a scheduled release date of 2/20/20.

Bryant Scott Perkins appeared in Crime Watch on Jan. 2 for criminal threats, assault, battery and a probation violation. He was released 17 days after his arrest.

Walter Dewayne McNeil appeared in Crime Watch on Dec. 28 for burglary and obstructing an arrest. He was release three days after his arrest.

Marlon Humberto Siguenza appeared in Crime Watch on Dec. 27 for battery. He was released without jail time and issued a citation.

COASTAL COMMISSION

FROM PAGE 1

In 2009, the Farzam family applied for a coastal development permit to build a moderately priced motel to replace their two aging motels on Ocean Avenue, but instead built a luxury hotel where rooms and suites range between $300 and $800 per night.

After a legal battle and years of negotiations, the commission fined the Farzam's company and struck a deal to set aside 86 rooms in the Shore Hotel at $180 per night so the hotel could legally remain open. The rooms are intended to replace the 86 rooms that were lost when the motels were demolished.

The Coastal Commission may wield significant power over developers, but it has never fully recovered from Republican Gov. George Deukmejian slashing its budget and staff in the 1980s. Before Deukmejian starting draining the agency's resources in the name of preserving local coastal control, it had a $37 million budget in today's dollars and 212 staffers. By 2017, its budget had shrunk to $22.4 million and it employed 159 people.

While it is now operating with a $28.8 million budget and 172 authorized employees, the commission still lacks the staff and funding to resolve all of its open enforcement cases, help every beach community create a Local Coastal Program to guide development and ensure that developers comply with the conditions of the coastal development permits it issues.

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 11)

Never doubt your competence this year. You've been in charge of taking care of yourself for several thousands of days, and you've done an amazing job, all things considered. You'll take that experience and turn it into a remarkable relationship, a travel adventure and progress with the project that means the most to you. Cancer and Pisces adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 1, 8, 40 and 10.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your identity isn't something you always think about, which is the healthy way to handle it. However, changing times cause you to consider yourself a little more than usual and make decisions about who you want to be going forward.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). No matter how well you know someone, you can always learn more. Today, you'll jostle a relationship about a bit and something new will pop out like the secret compartment of an old jewelry chest.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You need help; someone needs to give you help. All is aligned perfectly for you to build your pitch. Highlight many benefits that will surely come to any assistant of yours.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You'll be happy about negotiating, if you do it for the right reasons. The best one will be that other people's contributions are worth the effort. However, you'll regret any compromise that's made to please or placate.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your feisty disposition makes you an exciting person to be around today, although there are always lines to be walked and crossed. Your tolerance for risk might be a little higher than is good for you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Though you will experience a strong psychic connection and know just what another person needs without hearing it verbally expressed, taking action on this will be a delicate and tricky matter.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You've selected interesting people and highlighted their best qualities, weaving together truly inspired social life. Any time you spend developing friendships contributes to this work of art.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There is a rather powerful intimacy in conflict, be it run-of-the-mill drama, arguments, power struggles or any disagreement. Consider carefully how you want to involve yourself in this way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You could pull out all the stops and show the full force and variance of your talent. Will they be blown away in multitudes? Probably. Also they'll be jealous and threatened. Diplomacy is showmanship. Hold back a little something.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Knowing you're not in control can be frightening or frustrating, especially when the situation is one you would normally handle without a problem. Try not to resist life's little natural spontaneous changes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). People who are easy to be with give you a break from having to do emotional work. Laughter is restorative as is the idea that you're accepted for who you are, no pretense or cover necessary.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your joy cannot be derailed today. You plan for it, you stay focused on it, and you don't even bother to turn your head toward anything that might detract from your happiness.

Major Player Pre-Show

Tomorrow, Mercury, Saturn and Pluto all line up neatly in Capricorn like a rat pack stealing the stage circa 1960, or a brat pack on screen circa 1985. Whatever your preference of reference, today will have all the buzz of anticipation. Something is about to begin, and this is an excellent time to file in, face the stage and take your seat.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTION:

"My husband and I have had several fights on the subject of raising our child. From my point of view, he lacks parenting skills or the natural instinct about how to discipline a 5-year-old girl. He needs to educate himself. From his point of view, I undermine his parenting efforts by interrupting his disciplinary measures, which consist of arguing endlessly with a 5-year-old. I can't listen to it! How can a Virgo and a Gemini get on the same page about raising an Aquarius child?"

You're right about the arguing. Your young Aquarius is so bright that she can keep the conversation going for as long as it takes to get her way. And she's met her match in the Gemini father, who might get so caught up his communication that he forgets he is dealing with a kindergartener's maturity level. However, your husband is also right. You need to get on the same page and present a united front. Whether it is a time out or the taking away of privileges, the consequences you and your husband agree upon should be delivered in a brief and unemotional manner.

CELEBRITY PROFILE

This year, Amanda Peet will star in season two of the contemporary crime drama "Dirty John" before traveling back in time to 19th-century New York in "The Gilded Age." Peet's natal Venus and Mars in Capricorn reveal the moxie and grit that drive a person to do what it takes to be great in both life and art. Several planets in Aquarius show a deep need to contribute to the public good. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

WORD UP!

Sidesplitter

Noun

Something that is uproariously funny, as a joke or a situation.

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"NOBODY PETS HIM LIKE GRANDMA."

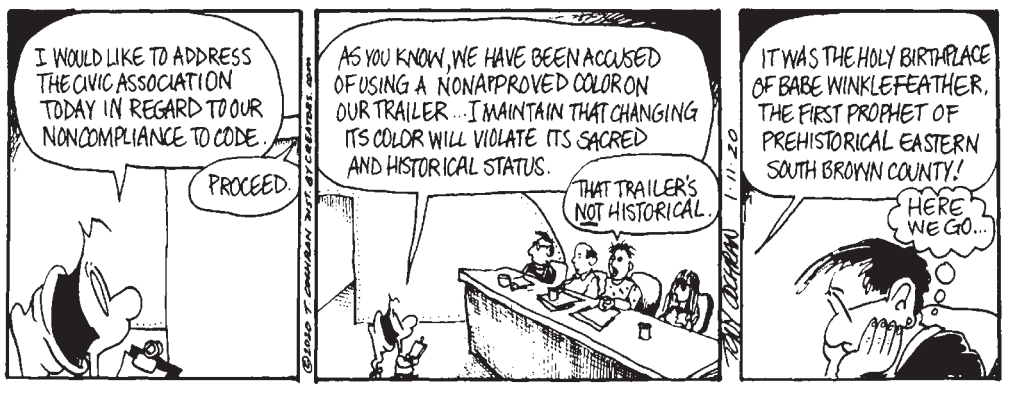
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



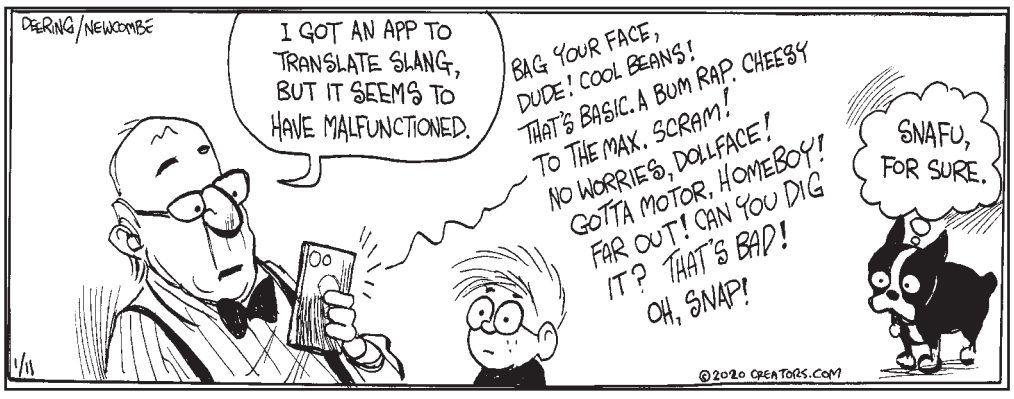
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DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date:01/08
2 4 7 43 56
Power#: 22
Jackpot: 277 M

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

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 01/08
1 16 34 35 47
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 12 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 01/09
8 10 17 26 35

Daily 3
Draw Date: 01/10
Midday: 3 9 9
Draw Date: 01/09
Evening: 8 8 9

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 01/08
1st: 8 - GORGEOUS GEORGE
2nd: 5 - CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
3rd: 11 - MONEY BAGS
RACE TIME: 1:48.42

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SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 59.7°

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft+ ankle to knee high occ. 3 ft
NW swell-mix fades at exposures. Deep 6'+ mid AM high tide is problematic.

SUNDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 1-2ft+ ankle to knee high occ. 3 ft
Small NW swell-mix at exposures. Deep 6'+ mid AM high tide is problematic.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

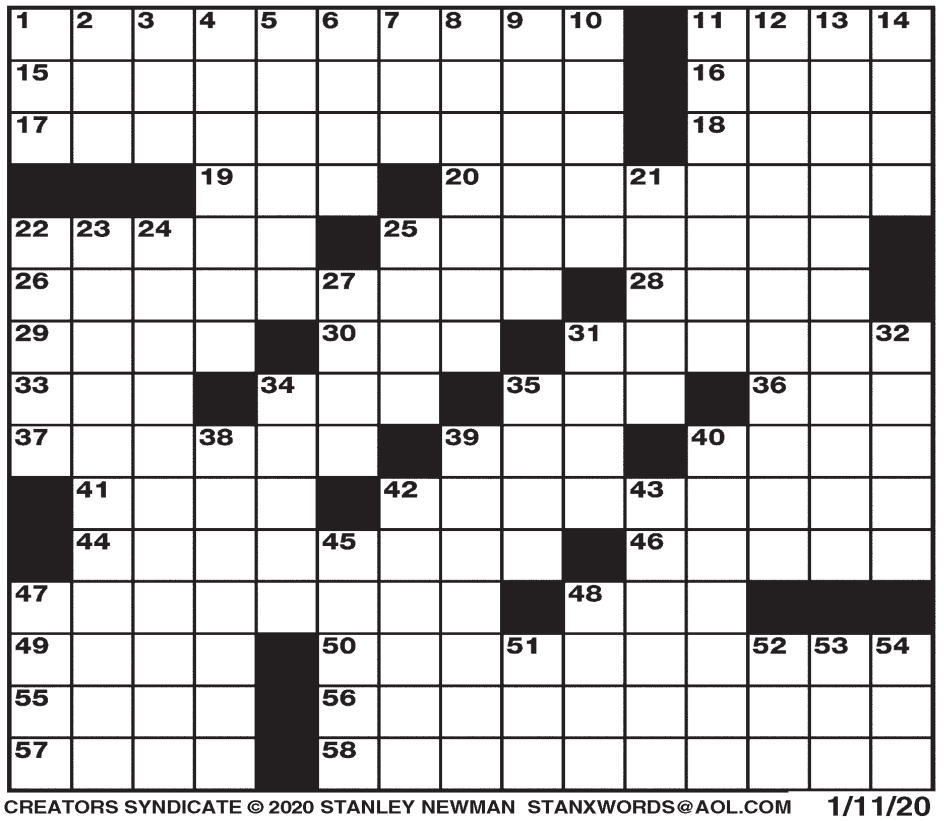
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			1		2			3

Newsday Crossword

SATURDAY STUMPER by Andrew Bell Lewis
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Western ethics attributed to Autry
11 Turbulently
15 Didn't earn
16 Call on
17 Kiwanians' colleagues
18 Cardiff's Giovanni
19 It's pictured on Connecticut's quarter
20 Germany's leading grape
22 Baker's nonstick pan coating
25 *Bridge of Spies* screenwriter
26 Two, e.g.
28 Avoid capping
29 "Sacred" symbol of Israel's special forces
30 Well-loved trio
31 Mass media
33 Fourth-quarter latte flavoring
34 Went nowhere
35 Door opener of a sort
36 Dr. Oz got it at Penn
37 Keep from succeeding
39 Money-making device
40 *Très attrayant*
41 Encumbrance
42 Boss' autobiography
44 Measures of electrical charge
46 Profile in Courage Award recipient (2017)
47 Self-contained
48 "Ye have made __ den of thieves": Book of Matthew
49 Work assignment
50 Order to let go
55 Cantilever sole introducer (c. 1979)
56 They have no matches
57 Jack Daniels' HQ
58 Well-camouflaged African climber

DOWN
1 Spending power, for short
2 Monterey area's Fort __ National Monument
3 Bind firmly
4 Soils
5 Supporting Actress Oscar role in the disaster flick *In Old Chicago*
6 Meringue maker's leftover
7 Poly preceder
8 Offensive, maybe
9 Less street-smart
10 "An Oldsmobile sucking a lemon," per *Time*
11 Highly durable
12 Framing device
13 *A Charlie Brown Christmas* instrumental
14 2018 Broadway role "played" by more than a dozen people simultaneously
21 Rattle
22 Word from Old French for "pretended"
23 Nonpecuniary pleasurable pursuit
24 Garden spoiler
25 Shocker
27 Amassment
31 Rice paddy sight
32 Summertime metaphor
34 #2 baby girl name in 1960, #959 in 2017
35 Sniffy display
38 Oliver Cromwell follower
39 One with the most institutional memory
40 Liquid refreshment from Taiwan
42 City that sounds like sausage
43 For all time?
45 Handiwork
47 Pit follower
48 It's swallowed by piranha
51 Break into, quaintly
52 Self starter
53 Airport s. of Saratoga Springs
54 Agcy. with explosives specialists



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DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 18 CALLS ON JAN. 9

EMS 1300blk 15th St 5:55 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 26th St 8:43 a.m.
EMS 1500blk 7th St 8:43 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2000blk Main St 8:57 a.m.
EMS 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 8:58 a.m.
Elevator Rescue 700blk Wilshire Blvd 9:20 a.m.
EMS 2500blk 5th St 10:53 a.m.
Wires Down 2300blk Pearl St 11:08 a.m.
EMS 2100blk Ocean Ave 12:29 p.m.
EMS 300blk Santa Monica Pier 4:24 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Neilson Way / Bicknell Ave 4:41 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400blk Montana Ave 5:32 p.m.
Wires Down 500blk Palisades Ave 5:37 p.m.
EMS 1100blk Cedar St 6:28 p.m.
EMS 2000blk Arizona Ave 6:29 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 25th St / Pearl St 7:21 p.m.
EMS Stanford St / Broadway 7:48 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 20th St 11:40 p.m.

WEEKLY ARRESTS

THERE WERE 54 ARRESTS THE WEEK OF JANUARY 1ST TO 7TH

DATE	SEX	AGE	CHARGED WITH
1/1/20	M	57	Drunk in Public
1/1/20	M	39	Drunk in Public
1/1/20	M	32	Corporal Injury To Spouse
1/1/20	M	35	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
1/1/20	M	24	Possession of Methamphetamines
1/2/20	M	23	Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance
1/2/20	M	26	Shoplifting
1/2/20	F	28	Plastic Milk Crate Theft
1/2/20	M	44	Parole Violation
1/2/20	M	37	Warrant
1/3/20	M	34	Parole Violation
1/3/20	F	20	Driving Under The Combined Influence Of Alcohol And Drugs
1/3/20	M	21	Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
1/3/20	M	38	Parole Violation
1/3/20	M	33	Possession of Methamphetamines
1/3/20	M	29	Warrant
1/3/20	M	32	Parole Violation
1/3/20	M	44	Parole Violation
1/3/20	M	30	Possession of Methamphetamines for Sale
1/3/20	M	25	Burglary
1/3/20	M	51	Possession of Methamphetamines for Sale
1/3/20	M	23	Domestic Battery
1/4/20	M	23	Possession of Brass Knuckles
1/4/20	M	55	Illegal Riding on Sidewalk
1/4/20	M	27	Resisting Arrest
1/4/20	F	49	Public Nudity
1/4/20	M	46	Probation Violation
1/4/20	M	36	Jaywalking
1/5/20	M	50	Drunk in Public
1/5/20	M	44	Carrying A Concealed Dirk Or Dagger
1/5/20	M	42	Drunk in Public
1/5/20	M	56	Illegal Possession of Firearm
1/5/20	M	49	Drunk in Public
1/5/20	F	40	Parole Violation
1/5/20	M	37	Burglary
1/5/20	M	24	Warrant
1/6/20	M	22	Driving Under The Combined Influence Of Alcohol And Drugs
1/6/20	M	49	Parole Violation
1/6/20	M	47	Drunk in Public
1/6/20	M	38	Possession of Methamphetamines
1/6/20	M	55	Parole Violation
1/6/20	M	44	Drunk in Public
1/6/20	F	42	Corporal Injury To Spouse
1/7/20	M	26	Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance
1/7/20	M	39	Illegal Riding on Sidewalk
1/7/20	F	29	Arson
1/7/20	M	40	Public Urination or Defecation
1/7/20	M	37	Resisting Arrest
1/7/20	M	40	Drunk in Public
1/7/20	F	30	Robbery
1/7/20	M	48	Warrant
1/7/20	M	37	Warrant
1/7/20	M	24	Contempt of Court
1/7/20	M	46	Corporal Injury To Spouse

DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 303 CALLS ON JAN. 9

Vandalism Just Occurred 1400blk 2nd St 12:49 a.m.
Prowler Just Left 2300blk La Mesa Dr 12:51 a.m.
Encampment 2900blk Pico Blvd 1:08 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 3:57 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1500blk 2nd St 4:05 a.m.
Vehicle Parked On Sidewalk 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 6:47 a.m.
Battery Report 7th St / Wilshire Blvd 7:01 a.m.
Encampment 200blk Santa Monica Pier 7:14 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 2900blk Virginia Ave 7:49 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred Ocean Ave / Broadway 8:31 a.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred Ocean Ave / Colorado Ave 8:32 a.m.
Encampment 1700blk Cloverfield Blvd 8:36 a.m.
Rape Report 300blk Olympic Dr 8:57 a.m.
Fraud Report 300blk Olympic Dr 8:58 a.m.
Found Property 300blk Olympic Dr 9:25 a.m.
Person With A Gun 800blk Pacific Coast Hwy 9:37 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 600blk Raymond Ave 9:51 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 5th St / Colorado Ave 9:57 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 500blk Pacific St 10:01 a.m.
Prowler 800blk 26th St 10:15 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400blk 4th St 10:18 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 3300blk Pico Blvd 11:15 a.m.
Burglary Report 1900blk 6th St 11:39 a.m.
Found Property 600blk Pacific Coast Hwy 11:43 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1100blk Harvard St 11:45 a.m.
Domestic Violence Just Occurred Barnard Way / Ocean Park Blvd 11:47 a.m.
Fraud Report 300blk Olympic Dr 11:55 a.m.
Kidnap Report 2400blk 34th St 11:59 a.m.
Burglary Report 2900blk 10th St 12:04 p.m.
Fraud Report 1500blk Princeton St 12:08 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1900blk 6th St 12:20 p.m.
Drinking In Public 1400blk Ocean Ave 12:45 p.m.
Found Property 1100blk 4th St 12:52 p.m.
Fraud Suspect There Now 1700blk Ocean Ave 12:53 p.m.
Vandalism Just Occurred 2200blk Colorado Ave 12:59 p.m.
Found Senile Person 2000blk Lincoln Blvd 12:59 p.m.
Drinking In Public 2200blk 23rd St 1:44 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1600blk California Ave 2:00 p.m.
Out Of Order Traffic Signals Lincoln Blvd / Montana Ave 2:06 p.m.
Elder Abuse 900blk 3rd St 2:08 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 4th St / Olympic Blvd E 2:19 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2700blk 7th St 2:45 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 1500blk Montana Ave 3:15 p.m.
Defrauding Innkeeper Just Occurred 300blk Santa Monica Pier 3:23 p.m.
Sexual Assault 20th St / Santa Monica Blvd 3:35 p.m.
Battery Report 1300blk 17th St 4:07 p.m.
Vehicle With Excessive Parking Violations 1100blk Pico Blvd 4:07 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 4:25 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 4:28 p.m.
Encampment 1700blk 9th St 4:30 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Neilson Way / Bicknell Ave 4:41 p.m.
Theft Suspect In Custody 1200blk 4th St 4:48 p.m.
Burglary Report 1000blk 17th St 4:49 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1600blk The Beach 5:14 p.m.
Urinating/Defecating In Public 2400blk Main St 5:21 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1800blk Lincoln Blvd 5:35 p.m.
Burglary Report 1000blk 17th St 6:07 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries 26th St / Broadway 6:15 p.m.
Found Property 1400blk Ocean Ave 6:51 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1100blk Centinela Ave 7:05 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 23rd St / Ocean Park Blvd 7:19 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 800blk 18th St 7:30 p.m.
Identity Theft 2200blk 27th St 7:32 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1300blk 3rd Street Prom 7:43 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 7:48 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 7:54 p.m.
Critical Missing Person 800blk 4th St 8:10 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto Report 1500blk 4th St 8:18 p.m.
Domestic Violence Report 2100blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:19 p.m.
Construction Noise 400blk 17th St 8:40 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 15th St / Wilshire Blvd 8:56 p.m.
Burglary Now 900blk Wilshire Blvd 9:04 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1200blk Wilshire Blvd 10:59 p.m.

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