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Santa Monica Daily Press

FRIDAY
01.17.20
Volume 19 Issue 56

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Hate crime
Three individuals were attacked on the Pier.
Page 11

Cheaters always prosper ...
until they get caught.
Page 6

Woodacres listed for $20 million

MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

The recently landmarked home of a famed local architect is for sale for $20 million.

The Landmarks Commission voted unanimously last year to landmark the estate John Parkinson built in 1920 on Woodacres Road and lived in until his death in 1935. Parkinson designed Los Angeles' City Hall, Coliseum and Grand Central Market, but during the landmarking debate, his biographer Stephen Gee said the Woodacres estate is the best reflection of his architectural style. The two-story Italian Renaissance-style home is also remarkably unaltered, he said.

Current owner Marcia Alphson opposed the designation, saying landmark status will lower the property's value and prevent her from making necessary renovations. She inherited Woodacres from her parents, Howard and Druscilla Alphson, who bought it from the estate of Parkinson's widow in the 1960s.

Mary Beth Woods, a Coldwell Banker Global Luxury Property Specialist affiliated with the Brentwood office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, announced the sale last week with a list price of $20,000,000. While other properties in the neighborhood appear to be of similar size, Woods said the five-bedroom, three-bathroom, one-partial-bathroom and approximately

SEE **WOODACRES** PAGE 7

Lincoln Middle School looks to amaze locals with upcoming Lion King production



Monica Ciociola

PLAY: The opening night of the Lincoln Middle School's performance will be Friday, Jan. 24. Students will present a version of The Lion King.

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

For 10 years, the students of Lincoln Middle School have thrilled local residents with professional-like productions of classic tales like "Momma Mia," all while gaining the skills that organizers say will help them on the road to future success.

With support from the Santa Monica Education Foundation, Lincoln Middle School PTSA and local company Theatre 31, this year's cohort of participants is comprised of more than 100 students who will attempt to embody the legendary characters of "Disney's The Lion King Jr."

The opening night of the local middle school play is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24, but residents will also have a few more opportunities to catch the production during the weekend. Tickets are available online and possibly at the door, according to

SEE **LION KING** PAGE 11

Council limits size of home remodels

MADELEINE PAUKER
SMDP Staff Writer

Developers looking to go big on homes in residential areas will have to settle for going medium after City Council revised construction rules this week following accusations developers are already undermining recent efforts to rein in oversized homes.

At their Tuesday meeting, Council voted to restrict remodels to no more than 55% of the total lot. New one-story homes are limited to 50% and new two-story homes to 45%.

The city is trying to incentivize remodels rather than demolish and replace projects — a trend longtime residents say is changing the character of their neighborhoods.

Council previously tried to address the problem in October of last year when the council passed several changes to single-family neighborhood zoning, limiting the height of new homes, the size of their second stories and how much of a lot they can occupy.

The vote followed a year-and-a-half-long public input process in which locals said they were being boxed in by the large houses being built around them, often by developers hoping to cash in on Santa Monica's lucrative housing market.

Other residents, however, said limiting parcel coverage to 55% will make it difficult to remodel their homes to accommodate children or aging family members. Mayor

SEE **REMODELS** PAGE 7


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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, January 21, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Civic Auditorium – East Wing, (wheelchair accessible)
1855 Main Street, Santa Monica

PROPERTIES:

- 19ARB-0528: 2019 3rd Street: New Unit at Rear
- 19ARB-0515: 2409 28th Street: New Duplex at Rear
- 19ARB-0542: 1301 Santa Monica Boulevard: Signs
- 19ARB-0541: 1100 Santa Monica Boulevard: Signs
- 19ARB-0540: 3300 Olympic Boulevard: Signs
- 19ARB-0193: 1707 Cloverfield Boulevard: Mixed-Use

PRELIMINARY REVIEW(S):

- 1633 26th Street: Mixed-Use
- 1323 5th Street: Mixed-Use
- 1437 6th Street: Mixed-Use

More information is available on-line at https://www.smgov.net/Departments/PCD/Boards-Commissions/Architectural-Review-Board/ or at (310) 458-8341 (en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail james.combs@smgov.net, or mail Santa Monica City Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 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. And the Civic Center. Public parking is available in front of City Hall, on Olympic Drive and in the Civic Center Parking Structure (validation free).

MYSTERY PHOTO

Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize.



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What's Up Westside
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, January 17

Fireside at the Miles - Orchestra Santa Monica Woodwind Quintet
Orchestra Santa Monica Woodwind Quintet performs the music of Saint-Saens and Nielsen. 8 - 10 p.m. Tickets available at https://osmwoodwindquintet.eventbrite.com

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

Main Library Docent Tours
Docent led tours are offered the third Friday of each month. Docent led tours of the Main Library cover the library's gold LEED rating of sustainability, its art, architecture and even the library's collection! Docents are able to adapt the tour to fit your interest and time. Main Library, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 18

Fireside at the Miles - Colibri Quartet
Colibri Quartet is a Los Angeles based jazz ensemble blending American and Brazilian traditions. The group envisions The American Songbook and Samba classics from a contemporary perspective and highlights many original compositions. The quartet features Natália Spadini (vocals), Ben Thomas (guitar), Kevin McClellan (bass), and Marcelo Bucater (drums). Tickets available at https://colibriquartet.eventbrite.com. 8 - 10 p.m.

RE/CITE: Spoken Legacies Poetry Workshop with Natalie Patterson
Explore your community's history of movement, migration and displacement in this free poetry workshop open to all ages, backgrounds and abilities. Join us for a collective poetry making session and share your words in a quilt of everyone's stories! 3 - 5:30 p.m. Register online at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/recite-spoken-legacies-poetry-workshop-with-natalie-patterson-tickets-89609457299

Eurydice: an LA Opera Multimedia Talk on a New Opera
LA Opera Community Educator Diane Beltoya provides background, images and music to prepare you for seeing Eurydice, a brand new opera. Matthew Aucoin partners with playwright Sarah Ruhl for a new opera that re-imagines ancient mythology for a modern age. This time, the tale unfolds from the heroine's point of view. (Finally, right?). Learn all about the opera before seeing it performed in person. Main Library, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Write Away Authors Showcase
Our very own Write Away authors group offers a live reading showcase of the best work they've written in their support workshop. Find out how you can join in their regular sessions as well. Fairview Branch Library, 1 - 3 p.m.

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.

Ocean Park Fiction Winners Book Group
This book group reads and discusses prize-winning fiction. The group meets the 3rd Saturday of the month from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Discussion Title: 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness' by Arundhati Roy. Ocean Park Branch Library

Master Gardeners at the Market
Master Gardeners provide free gardening tips, solutions to gardening problems, seeds and seedlings as well as their technical expertise based on the Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program which provides intense gardening training emphasizing organic gardening and covers vegetables, fruits, flowers, shrubs, trees, soils, composting, pests and harvesting. The Master Gardeners of Los Angeles visit the Pico Farmers Market on the third Saturday of each month 9:30 am - Noon. Virginia Avenue Park

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

Judge halts California labor law as it relates to truckers

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

A federal judge on Thursday indefinitely blocked a new California labor law from applying to more than 70,000 independent truckers, deciding that it is preempted by federal rules on interstate commerce.

The state law that took effect Jan. 1 makes it harder for companies to classify workers as independent contractors instead of employees who are entitled to minimum wage and benefits such as workers compensation.

But when it comes to independent truckers, "California runs off the road and into the preemption ditch" of federal law, wrote U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez of San Diego.

He granted the California Trucking Association a preliminary injunction, indefinitely extending his earlier temporary restraining order until the association's challenge is ultimately resolved in months or years.

"There is little question that the State of California has encroached on Congress' territory by eliminating motor carriers' choice to use independent contractor drivers, a choice at the very heart of interstate trucking," Benitez wrote. He added that the state law would produce "the patchwork of state regulations Congress sought to prevent."

The broad focus of the state law has been on ride-share companies such as Uber and Lyft and food delivery companies like DoorDash and Postmates, which are also challenging the law in court and at the ballot box.

But other groups contend they are victims of unintended consequences, including freelance writers and photographers who filed their own lawsuit.

An organization representing translators and interpreters on Thursday said it is lobbying state lawmakers to also exempt its members. It says many "are truly independent contractors" caught up in the new restrictions intended to help employees who had been wrongly classified by employers.

The state attorney general's office said it is reviewing the judge's decision in the trucking case, adding that "our office has and will continue to defend laws that are designed to protect workers and ensure fair labor and business practices."

The trucking association's chief executive, Shawn Yadon, called the preliminary injunction "a significant win" for truckers who may have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in trucks that must meet the state's strict environmental standards.

The ruling is too narrowly focused to affect other pending cases, said Michele Miller, an attorney with the Cozen O'Connor labor and employment law firm who is not involved in the lawsuits.

"There's a specific preemption provision, and that's unlike the other two, the journalists and Uber and Postmates, where they're relying on constitutional prohibitions," she said. Those challenges argue that the labor law variously infringes on free speech, equal protection, due process and interference with contracts.

Aside from the lawsuits, she said there will be a continued tug-of-war in the Legislature this year between groups that want to expand and narrow the law.

"We have not heard the end of AB5 in any way shape or form," Miller said. "I think we'll continue to see attempts to deal with some of the fallout of the legislation."

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SANTA MONICA MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed qualifications and proposals from contractors holding a type **"B"** license, on the following: **RFQ/RFP #20.04.SMS-DSA#'s 03-120438, 03-120376, 03-120190 & 03-120122, Lincoln Middle School HVAC & Modernization, SMASH/MUIR Elementary School Modernization, and Grant Elementary School HVAC, Fire Alarm, Doors, and Accessibility Upgrades Lease-leaseback (LLB) Project at Lincoln Middle School, SMASH/MUIR Elementary School and Grant Elementary School.** The total scope of work for all three projects is **estimated to be between $17,000,000 - $22,000,000** and includes work associated to the removal and replacement of HVAC systems throughout each site, new mechanical systems, new fire alarm, new wireless security card access systems, building modernizations and other associated improvements per project as per the projects bidding documents. All submittals must be submitted to the SMMUSD Facility Improvement Office, 2828 4th Street, Santa Monica, California 90405 on or before 2/11/20 at 3:00 PM. Each submittal must be sealed and marked with the RFQ/RFP name and number. All interested firms must attend the Mandatory Pre-Response meeting to be held at the SMMUSD FIP Office on 1/22/20 at 9:30 AM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumping (M/E/P) Subcontractors must be pre-qualified for this project per bidding documents. To view the projects bidding documents, please visit ARC Southern California public plan room www.crplanwell.com and reference the project RFQ/RFP #.

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

Mandatory Pre-Response Meeting (attendance is required for all Prime Contractors): 1/22/20 at 9:30 AM

Pre-Response Meeting location: SMMUSD FIP Office – 2828 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405

Submittal Due Date: 2/11/20 no later than 3:00pm

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

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Emphasis on US exports, trade secrets in China trade deal

BY KEVIN FREKING AND PAUL WISEMAN
Associated Press

The United States and China reached a trade deal Wednesday that eases tensions between the world's two biggest economies, offers massive export opportunities for U.S. farms and factories, and promises to do more to protect American trade secrets.

Still, the Phase 1 agreement leaves unresolved Washington's fundamental differences with Beijing, which is relying on massive government intervention in the economy to turn China into a technological power.

President Donald Trump is wanting to show progress on an issue that he has made a hallmark of his presidency and hopes to use in his reelection campaign this year. Wednesday's signing ceremony at the White House gave him the chance to do that just hours before the House voted to send articles of impeachment to the Senate for a trial.

Trump promoted the trade signing as a way of delivering economic justice for American workers he claims have been betrayed by past administrations and their trade policies.

"We mark more than just an agreement. We mark a sea change in international trade," Trump declared during a rambling ceremony in which he made references to former FBI Director James Comey, the impeachment proceedings and a possible visit to Mount Rushmore on July Fourth for a fireworks display.

The Chinese delegation also praised the pact. Chinese leader Xi Jinping said in a letter to Trump that the first-phase deal was "good for China, for the U.S. and for the whole world." He said it also showed the two countries had the ability to "act on the basis of equality and mutual respect." The letter was read by Beijing's chief negotiator, Vice Premier Liu He.

Some of the president's Democratic critics were unimpressed.

"True to form, Trump is getting precious little in return for the significant pain and uncertainty he has imposed on our economy, farmers, and workers," said former Vice President Joe Biden, one of the Democrats hoping to replace Trump.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said in a statement that "with the economy losing thousands of manufacturing jobs and Farm Country reeling from the damage caused by President Trump, Americans are left with nothing more than a showy television ceremony to try to hide the complete absence of concrete progress, transparency or accountability in this 'phase one' agreement."

The administration acknowledges the agreement leaves unresolved some U.S. complaints — most notably, the way the Chinese government subsidizes its companies. That was the concern voiced when Trump sparked a trade war by imposing tariffs on Chinese imports in July 2018.

"The Phase 1 deal contains meaningful commitments but by no means lives up to the initial objectives of the administration," said Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator who is now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute. Further Chinese concessions would force Bejing to make major changes in its state-dominated economic model, which means "the prospects for a timely conclusion are remote," she said.

The agreement leaves in place tariffs on about $360 billion in Chinese imports, leverage the administration hopes will generate future concessions.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said work on follow-up negotiations will hinge on how China fulfills the commitments it made in the initial phase.

"We have to make sure this is implemented properly," Lighthizer said. "This is the first agreement like this of its kind and we have to make sure that it works."

The agreement is intended to ease some U.S. economic sanctions on China while Beijing is to step up purchases of American farm products and other goods. Trump cited beef, pork, poultry, seafood, rice and dairy products as examples.

U.S. trade officials said the agreement would end a long-standing practice of China pressuring foreign companies to transfer technology to Chinese companies as a condition for obtaining market access. Lighthizer said China has also agreed to combat patent theft and counterfeit products, which would include forfeiting machinery used for making counterfeit products.

The 86-page agreement makes it easier to bring criminal cases in China against those accused of stealing trade secrets. It includes provisions designed to stop Chinese government officials from using administrative and regulatory procedures to ferret out foreign companies' trade secrets and allowing that information to get into the hands of Chinese competitors.

The deal requires China to come up with procedures to "permit effective and expeditious action" to take down websites that sell pirated goods. China also must make it possible for e-commerce sites to lose their licenses for "repeated failures to curb the sale of counterfeit or pirated goods."

China is required to increase its purchases of U.S. manufactured, energy and farm products and services by a combined $200 billion this year and next. The arrangement means that China is supposed to buy $40 billion in U.S. farm exports. That would be a windfall for Trump supporters in rural America but an ambitious goal considering that China has never bought more than $26 billion in U.S. agricultural products in a year.

"It's a strong first step," said Jeremie Waterman, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's vice president for Greater China. "It begins the process of addressing some of the structural concerns, but there's a lot of work left to do. The meat, the core of (U.S. complaints about China's aggressive tech policies) has not yet been addressed. Obviously, that's going to have to wait until Phase 2."

Most analysts say any meaningful resolution of the main U.S. allegation — that Beijing uses predatory tactics in its drive to supplant

SEE **DEAL** PAGE 11

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 338 CALLS ON JAN. 15

Indecent Exposure Now 17th St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:52 a.m.
Stakeout 3200blk Wilshire Blvd 1:56 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 400blk Wilshire Blvd 2:42 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 800blk 17th St 3:59 a.m.
Sexual Assault 1200blk 3rd Street Prom 6:02 a.m.
Abandoned Vehicle 1500blk 4th St 6:38 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 800blk Broadway 7:04 a.m.
Burglary Report 1000blk 12th St 7:09 a.m.
Lewd Activity 1600blk The Beach 7:22 a.m.
Fraud Report 900blk Pico Blvd 7:27 a.m.
Lewd Activity 700blk Arizona Ave 7:45 a.m.
Fraud Report 200blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:53 a.m.
Encampment 2000blk Ocean Ave 7:57 a.m.
Petty Theft Report 2400blk 3rd St 8:11 a.m.
Battery Report 1800blk 9th St 8:14 a.m.
Vehicle With Excessive Parking Violations 1400blk 6th St 8:22 a.m.
Sexual Assault 200blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:25 a.m.
Sexual Assault 700blk Arizona Ave 8:45 a.m.
Burglary Now 2700blk 11th St 9:05 a.m.
Sexual Assault 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 9:08 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 1400blk 2nd St 9:15 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 1000blk 17th St 9:25 a.m.
Public Intoxication 400blk Broadway 9:36 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1000blk 10th St 10:43 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400blk 4th St 10:50 a.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 1500blk Pacific Coast Hwy 10:50 a.m.
Elder Abuse 500blk Olympic Blvd W 11:03 a.m.
Elder Abuse 300blk Olympic Dr 11:03 a.m.
Grand Theft Report 800blk Wilshire Blvd 11:10 a.m.
Encampment 800blk Ozone Ave 11:19 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2800blk 3rd St 11:43 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 9th St / Broadway 11:59 a.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 18th St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:04 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 12:09 p.m.
Public Intoxication 2400blk Wilshire Blvd 12:29 p.m.
Battery Report 3000blk Pico Blvd 12:32 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries 17th St / Montana Ave 12:33 p.m.
Smoking Violation 2300blk 4th St 12:38 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 800blk Broadway 12:43 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 1700blk Wilshire Blvd 12:59 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 100blk Marguerita Ave 1:01 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 100blk Pacific St 1:45 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 1:57 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 800blk Wilshire Blvd 2:35 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 2:50 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1700blk The Beach 2:51 p.m.
Identity Theft 900blk 4th St 3:00 p.m.
Trash Dumping 1800blk 9th St 3:35 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 2700blk Santa Monica Blvd 3:56 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1400blk Lincoln Blvd 4:06 p.m.
Elder Abuse 700blk 15th St 4:25 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1100blk 6th St 4:55 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 400blk Marguerita Ave 4:59 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 5th St / Olympic Blvd W 5:20 p.m.
Auto Burglary Report 1100blk 12th St 5:26 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 700blk Pier Ave 5:27 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 5:31 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1100blk California Ave 6:01 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 800blk Wilshire Blvd 6:16 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 800blk Wilshire Blvd 6:17 p.m.
Sexual Assault 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 6:21 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1100blk Chelsea Ave 6:25 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 6:30 p.m.
Battery Just Occurred 500blk Santa Monica Blvd 6:32 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 500blk Pacific St 6:47 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed Lincoln Blvd / Pico Blvd 6:51 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 600blk Ocean Park Blvd 7:01 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Now 800blk 7th St 7:07 p.m.
Assault W/Deadly Weapon Now 800blk 7th St 7:09 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 2800blk Wilshire Blvd 7:18 p.m.
Counterfeit Suspect There Now 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 7:26 p.m.
Strongarm Robbery Just Occurred 2900blk Arizona Ave 8:04 p.m.
Handicap Zone Violation 700blk Washington Ave 8:07 p.m.
Traffic Collision - Unknown Injuries 2400blk Lincoln Blvd 8:16 p.m.
Grand Theft Just Occurred 1500blk 11th St 8:20 p.m.
Fight 1100blk Wilshire Blvd 8:55 p.m.
Grand Theft Report 1500blk 11th St 8:56 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1300blk Centinela Ave 8:56 p.m.
Construction Noise 800blk 11th St 9:11 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 700blk Broadway 9:15 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 1400blk 3rd Street Prom 9:22 p.m.
Runaway 1100blk Cedar St 9:28 p.m.
Petty Theft Just Occurred 300blk Santa Monica Pier 9:44 p.m.
Petty Theft Report 1900blk Wilshire Blvd 9:49 p.m.
Encampment 1400blk Palisades Beach Rd 10:15 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 1200blk 16th St 10:22 p.m.
Illegal Weapon 2100blk Pico Blvd 10:40 p.m.
Exhibition Of Speed 5th St / Olympic Blvd W 10:43 p.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2000blk Delaware Ave 10:47 p.m.

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Cheaters Always Prosper.. Until They Get Caught



Courtesy image

STEALING: Lev Parnas indicted on Federal Election Interference while Mike Fiers Confessed to Astro sign stealing scandal.

I was all set to write about the big baseball scandal about the Houston Astros' illegal sign stealing that helped them cheat their way to a World Series Championship over the Dodgers in 2017. It's a sore subject especially because the Dodgers haven't won a World Series since 1988, which was so long ago Reagan was president and the Soviet Union was still in existence.

But then I watched MSNBC as Nancy Pelosi was signing the transfer of the Articles of the Impeachment to the Senate and I realized this was history in the making. Suddenly baseball sign stealing, however egregious, didn't quite compare to only the third time a President of the United States has been impeached since George Washington took the first oath of office in 1789. (Washington was famous for having reportedly said as a child, "I cannot tell a lie," whereas Trump, who acts like a child, could say, "I've told 15,000 in less than 3 years!")

And yet, as a lifelong Dodger fan I can't fully let go of the cheating scandal. So, I decided to try to combine the two subjects, which is precarious at best. (So if you want to flip to the crossword, I'll understand.)

Thankfully, Mike Fiers, a former Astros pitcher with a conscience revealed the cheating in a magazine interview. That said, I'm not consoled that Houston's manager and general manager were fired. Or that for the next two years the Astros will lose their top two draft choices. Or that the owner was fined $5 million. (Rich as he is, he might have found the $5 mil under the cushions of his couch.)

Here's how the scam worked. Only at home playoff games, the Astros set up a high tech camera somewhere beyond the center field fence that focused on the opposing catcher. Hidden, a monitor was set up in the tunnel leading to the Astro dugout next to a garbage can. Scrutinizing the monitor, an Astro player would bang on the can with a bat once or twice to indicate the upcoming pitch. This provided a huge, illegal advantage confirming that, contrary to the saying, cheaters often do prosper, at least until they get caught.

Speaking of the Cheater in Chief, what Donald Trump did with regard to Ukraine dates back to August, 2019 when Congress approved $390 million in military aide to our ally which was in a hot war with Russia. But, ironically, saying he was concerned about "corruption," Trump froze the funds unless Ukraine at least announced they were opening an investigation of Joe Biden to benefit the Donald's 2020 re-election. The freeze was music to murderous dictator, Vladimir Putin's KGB-trained ears. (Consider how many Trump policies wind up making Putin pleased as punch.)

However, in the second week of September, the administration suddenly released the funds. Trump defended his actions by saying there was never any quid pro quo and ultimately no "investigation," begging the question why did he release the funds? The answer is Trump got caught due to a whistle blower. His defenders say it was just a coincidence. And if you believe that, there's an expression about selling swamp land in Florida. Actually, it would be tragic but poetic justice if climate change denier Trump's precious Mar-A-Lago ultimately gets flooded and turns into swamp land.)

As I write this, Supreme Court Chief Justice, John Roberts, is administering the oath on each Senator that he or she remain impartial as they see the evidence. That's going to be a little tough for "Moscow" Mitch and "Leningrad" Lindsey since both have insisted publicly they won't be impartial.

Also tough for Lindsey, who was so adamant during the Clinton impeachment that there be witnesses, to now say there shouldn't be witnesses. The truth is a trial without witnesses and evidence isn't a trial, it's a cover-up.

First hand witnesses like Lev Parnas, John Bolton and Mick Mulvaney are essential to get to the truth. (You've got to see Rachel Maddow's bombshell interview with Parnas

SEE LAUGHING MATTERS PAGE 11

REMODELS

FROM PAGE 1

Pro Tempore Terry O'Day sided with those residents, casting the lone dissenting vote against the parcel coverage limits on Tuesday and in October.

Nancy Coleman, chair of the North of Montana neighborhood organization, expressed support for the measure the council approved on Tuesday and said she was concerned to learn that a local real estate company, Pence Hathorn and Silver, has been encouraging homeowners to get around the city's parcel coverage limits by building attached accessory dwelling units. (ADUs are exempt from parcel coverage limits because the city is encouraging property owners to build them to ease the local housing shortage.)

Coleman quoted the publication from the real estate company: "Because ADUs can be built abutting the house, there is talk among homeowners and architects of designing houses with common-wall ADUs so that once the city inspectors have signed off on the completed project, the home-owner might open the connecting walls and incorporate the ADU into the house thus recapturing the "lost" footage and shhh, adding illegal square footage to the house! A clever architect or designer should not have much trouble designing such a plan."

In response, the council voted to develop a way to enforce the parcel coverage limits. Councilmember Gleam Davis suggested an annual certification of ADUs.

"We're as upset as members of the public are that people are already trying to evade a law we've just put into effect," said Mayor Kevin McKeown.

madeleine@smdp.com

WOODACRES

FROM PAGE 1

4,726-square-foot home is on an approximately 1.223-acre lot.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to own Santa Monica's largest trophy property, which was built by architect John Parkinson for himself in 1921," Woods said. "Located on a cul-de-sac north of San Vicente Blvd., this flat lot is the largest residential lot in Santa Monica. Close to the Pacific Ocean and its beautiful beaches as well as restaurants and shops on Montana Ave, this is an opportunity to restore or recreate today's version of an elegant estate."

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 17)

Truly, this solar journey will be a wild ride. Competition heats up for you. Though it seems counterintuitive to sportsmanship, you approach it with compassion and a sincere desire to learn as much from the game as possible, which enhances your position and makes possible so much more than you dreamed. Libra and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 20, 15, 37 and 9.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You'll consider carefully the expenditure of investments in all currencies, the least significant being money. Money can be made, whereas once you spend time, you can never get it back.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The new deal you come up with will be totally free of old baggage and will have the best chance of blossoming into results that satisfy all parties and promote goodness in the world.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). To give someone what they weren't expecting and didn't ask for is a chance to blow someone's mind – or annoy them. Either way, it's a risk that you might just be daring (or bored) enough to find worthwhile.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Honor the instinct to conserve your energy. Probably, you sense that this drama swirl just isn't worthy of your engagement. Also, there's something exciting on the horizon that you'll want to be ready for.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Communication will be complicated. It's not so easy to express the emotions that come up – yet you'll feel compelled to. This could be the perfect storm from which comes great art.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're an expert, and this is just the beginning of what you'll become. Here comes a scenario you're overqualified to deal with, and yet solutions elude you. It's an opportunity to cast your net wider.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Sometimes you talk off of the top of your head and it doesn't come out the way you want it to. But most people hear your intentions and your heart. Either that or they hear what they want to hear, which you can't control anyway.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Why bother integrating your mind and body? Because any division that exists here cuts you off from your joy. Happiness requires both your body's vital presence and your mind's consciousness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). To go for the short-term gain will be a mistake in the long run. The mature choice seems less appealing, but the immature one will be embarrassing in retrospect.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There is an island within you where you can take refuge, where peace, love and freedom exist in perpetuity. You don't have to wait until things get difficult to go there.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). We each carry indelible marks of lineage, especially our spiritual lineage. There's no need to worry about what happened in a past life. This one has been full of lessons. You'll apply one in particular today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your powers of concentration will be exceptional today. Wield this well to digest weighty and complex matters. You really could come up with the world's most unique answer.

Mercury's Bright Mind Vitamin

An adage from the ancient east says: "Before enlightenment, chop wood, carry water. After enlightenment, chop wood, carry water." And so it goes. The motions of this day will look remarkably like the motions of days before, but this first full day of Mercury in Aquarius brings a brightness of mind that makes for an entirely different experience.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS

ARIES: You'll be embraced by the very person you want this most from. TAURUS: People are more complex than any math problem you could ever work and require the full of your attention to figure out. GEMINI: When your heart is light, no cloud cover can stop you from bathing in emotional sunshine. CANCER: In a mood to share, your usual boundaries go fuzzy. This can work out if you're careful to put yourself in the company of quality people. LEO: Before love comes laughter. VIRGO: Keats said that beauty is truth, truth, beauty. Does the adage still apply in a post-insta-filter world? LIBRA: Some of your talents don't translate to those who can't relate, but the ones who get you (SET ITSL)really(END ITAL) get you and will applaud endlessly. SCORPIO: When nerves kick in, it's a blessing. Extra energy equals extra magnetism. SAGITTARIUS: It's easier to avoid temptation when you're with people whose habits you admire. CAPRICORN: A strong inner urge to connect inclines you toward popularity. AQUARIUS: You've a lucky talent for recovery this weekend and will get a chance at regaining something lost. PISCES: Resist the urge to spill your heart or make a confession, as you'll only live to regret it.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

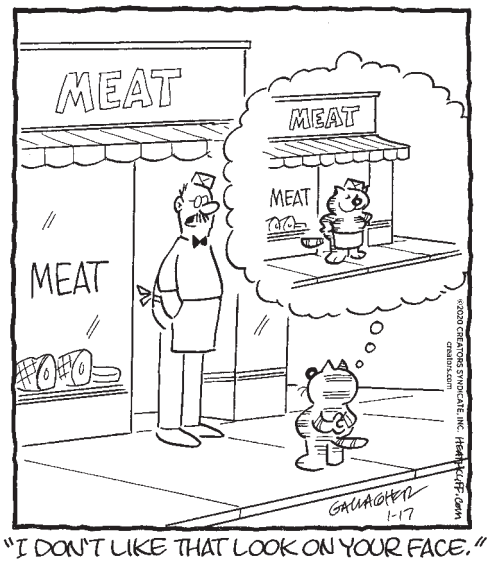
We all sense that there is a discrepancy between the self who walks in the world and the one inside. We believe there must be more to us than has been seen by the people around us, and we're right about that. Scorpio and Capricorn are able to glimpse something in one another – something other than what the rest of the people see and closer to, if not more wondrous, than the known self. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

WORD UP!

Flinty
Adjective
Unyielding; unmerciful; obdurate: a flinty heart..

Heathcliff

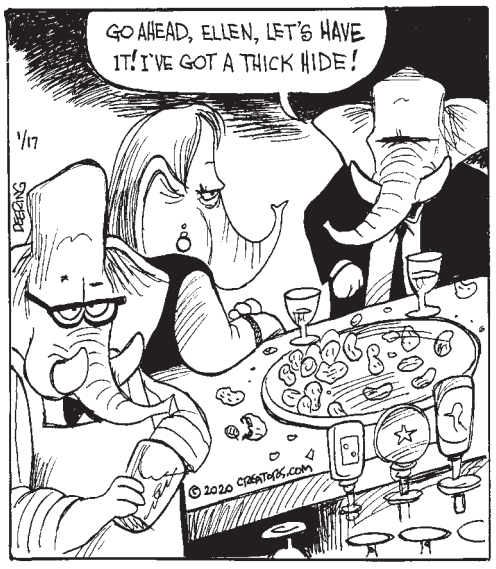
By PETER GALLAGHER



"I DON'T LIKE THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE."

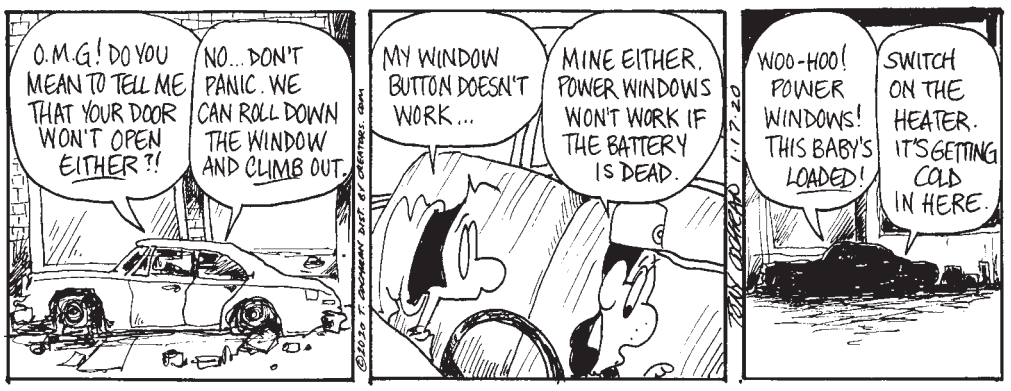
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



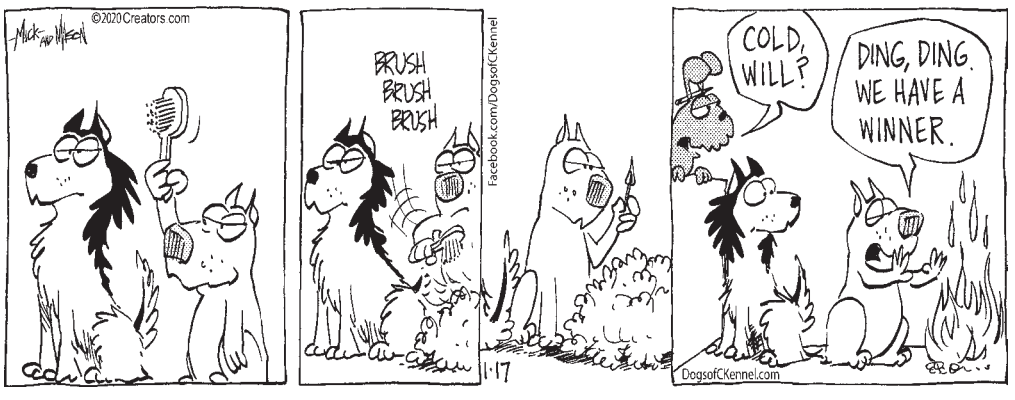
Agnes

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:01/15
39 41 53 55 68
Power#:19
Jackpot: 321 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 01/14
9 11 13 31 47
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 103 M

SuperLotto Plus
Draw Date: 01/15
7 21 28 42 44
Mega#: 22
Jackpot: 14 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 01/16
11 20 21 26 28

Daily 3
Draw Date: 01/15
Midday: 9 8 2
Draw Date: 01/14
Evening: 7 8 3

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 01/15
1st: 11 - MONEY BAGS
2nd: 5 - CALIFORNIA CLASSIC
3rd: 6 - WHIRL WIN
RACE TIME: 1:49.32

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: 59.5°

FRIDAY- **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Steeper NW swell-mix tops out. Fading SSE swell. Improving winds but some morning sickness likely early.

SATURDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high
NW swell-mix winds down. SSE swell leftovers.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

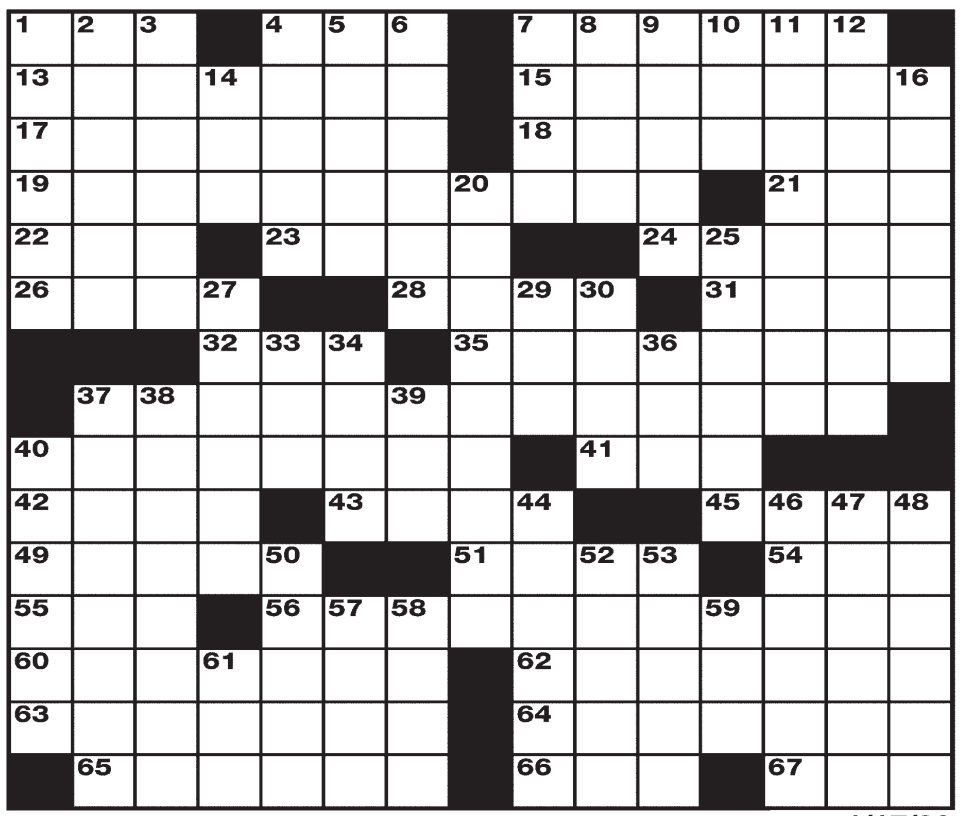
	3		6		5	7		4
		5		1				
6	4				9			3
	1		7			6		
	7			6			9	
		8			2		3	
8			3				5	2
				2		9		
4		6	9		1		7	

Newsday Crossword

TECH TWOSOME by S.N.
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Pair
4 Familiar pen name
7 Extreme cruelty
13 Quite possibly doable
15 French lace city
17 Honey
18 Ultimate source of granite
19 Half a tech twosome
21 Luau staple
22 Sancho Panza's mount
23 Water near Niagara Falls
24 Turns (off)
26 Emu cousin
28 Austen novel
31 __ cream (skin soother)
32 Perp's escape
35 Conquerors of the Byzantines
37 What 19 and 56 Across are credited as founding
40 Doggy day care offerer
41 Hollywood ending
42 Tranquility
43 Migratory seabird
45 Chaucerian excerpt
49 __ tectonics (seismology concern)
51 Belly filler
54 Dietary abbr.
55 Rude dude
56 Half a tech twosome
60 Straight
62 Cut down
63 Sniffs out
64 Royal Canadian Mint products
65 Small jazz group
66 Game developer's alteration
67 Decorator's purchase

DOWN
1 Expel from a practice
2 Stop hoping for
3 Warning ender
4 Immerse
5 Not as amicable
6 Han Solo's hairy pal
7 Except for
8 Habitually
9 Muscles used for shrugs
10 Company designation
11 Bones beside the 9 Down
12 Orator's avoidance
14 Elusive one
16 Clangs and bangs
20 Citrus source
25 The Bard's longest play
27 Good to go
29 Channel presenting Movie Awards
30 Hardly any
33 Desired result
34 Exam for docs-to-be
36 Spanish root word
37 Trade routes of a sort
38 Confirmatory comment
39 Valuable deposit
40 Heartburn-treatment brand
44 Flamethrower compound
46 Former name of Nova Scotia
47 Hares' ears, vis-à-vis rabbits'
48 Senior person
50 Royal decree
52 Proscription
53 New England whitefish
57 Prefix for room
58 Pension contract verb
59 The whole family
61 Latin law



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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 31, 2019 AT 10:30 P.M.

Officers responded to the 200 block of the Santa Monica Pier for a fight. Two male blacks had assaulted three male Asians while yelling racial slurs. The victims were walking on the pier ramp when they were struck from behind. The victims were hit on the head and in the face. All three victims lost consciousness from the attack. One of the witnesses were able to provide descriptions of the suspects. One of the suspects was located in the 500 block of Colorado. He was identified and taken into custody. The suspect provided false information to the officer at the time of the investigation. The other two suspects were not located. Richard Lofton, 23, from Los Angeles, was arrested for battery with serious injury, hate crime, and providing a false ID to police officer. Bail was set at $50,000.



File photo

RICHARD LOFTON

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 35 CALLS ON JAN. 15

EMS 1300blk 20th St 12:04 a.m.
EMS 1400blk Ocean Ave 5:17 a.m.
EMS 1000blk 3rd St 7:09 a.m.
EMS 2300blk 4th St 7:17 a.m.
EMS 1600blk Ocean Front Walk 7:35 a.m.
EMS 2900blk Exposition Blvd 7:50 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2500blk Colorado Ave 9:07 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1200blk 20th St 9:16 a.m.
EMS 500blk Arizona Ave 9:40 a.m.
EMS 1400blk Ocean Ave 10:11 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 700blk Wilshire Blvd 10:15 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 200blk San Vicente Blvd 10:49 a.m.
EMS 2300blk Main St 10:50 a.m.
EMS 1900blk Main St 11:30 a.m.
EMS 4th St / Wilshire Blvd 11:45 a.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury 800blk Broadway 11:59 a.m.
EMS 17th St / Montana Ave 12:33 p.m.
Automatic Alarm 200blk Wilshire Blvd 12:43 p.m.
EMS 1700blk Wilshire Blvd 1:05 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 17th St 1:11 p.m.
EMS 2200blk 29th St 1:12 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 1:59 p.m.
EMS 1000blk 6th St 2:06 p.m.
EMS 200blk Montana Ave 2:21 p.m.
EMS 26th St / Pico Blvd 2:30 p.m.
EMS 2800blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:32 p.m.
EMS 1300blk 15th St 2:45 p.m.
EMS 1900blk Pico Blvd 6:09 p.m.
EMS 1500blk 6th St 6:43 p.m.
EMS 700blk Grant St 7:13 p.m.
EMS 200blk Wilshire Blvd 7:51 p.m.
Vehicle Into A Structure 2400blk Lincoln Blvd 8:16 p.m.

LION KING

FROM PAGE 1

show organizers, who said residents can find more information online at lincolnlionking.bpt.me.

A DECADE IN THE MAKING

Many of the dozens of participants in this year's production are currently preparing to don eye-popping costumes as they attempt to embody legendary characters while they sing and dance in an African savanna brought to life by costumer Krista Daidone. Others are working behind the scenes to perfect the show's technical aspects, which is something that once seemed out of the realm of possibility when the theatre program first began at LMS.

"This is the tenth play that I've produced here since the Santa Monica Ed. Foundation went on the lookout for someone that could come and bring a Theatre Arts program to both Lincoln and John Adams," Artistic Director Chad Scheppner said in an interview this week, laughing alongside a parent volunteer as the pair reminisced on how far the program has come since its inception.

"I think the expectations of the program have changed over the years, based upon what the community wanted... It began as more of a workshop sort of thing where we were doing it once a week for a couple of hours and we were going to do an informal sort of presentation towards the end," Scheppner said.

But as the show progressed through the years, the number of volunteers increased along with the funding, which has afforded Scheppner and his students the opportunity to put on more than just an average middle school play for those who choose to attend.

"We have choreographers and physical theater. We've got silks, circus arts and it all gets incorporated," said parent producer Sarah Barrett.

And with only a few days remaining until opening day, children will be scrambling this weekend to ensure they have perfected every aspect of the show, including the lights and sound they will be in charge of running from a booth.

Actors Monty Oxman and Diego Guerra said they be hard at work preparing to take on their respective roles of Scar and Young Simba, while sixth-graders Sophie Castellanos and Rachel Orsolini will be busy gearing up microphones and sharing their detailed notes in an effort to help the director and the cast.

And that's only a part of the work that's gone into the upcoming production.

"You know, when we first started, we didn't have any of this, but it's such an incredible opportunity to have that ability to provide real-world experience," Barrett said. "And we couldn't do it without parents' support."

In fact, this is the seventh year that Daidone has contributed her time to handcraft the show's custom costumes — and she is one of many parents who've helped inspire the young minds of Lincoln Middle School.

"I learned so much working with Krista," eighth-grader Jordan Klein said, describing how Daidone helped her pin fabrics in preparation to be sewn at home. "It's rewarding to create something for people's enjoyment and to see my friends' reactions to their costumes. I can't wait to see the audience's reaction."

Barrett said the experience that Klein and other students receive while working on-set is incredible because the kids who tend to be shy and don't really have an interest in being on stage are still learning and discovering the importance of their work.

"And we really don't dumb it down for the kids and we expect — I think — more of them than maybe normal programs may," Scheppner added, stating: "It's not just the skills that they're getting as young artists of the theater, it's also the social aspect that we're getting at too."

Due to the size of LMS' theater cast, Scheppner admits the program can get challenging at times, but the perseverance of all who are involved shows how much everybody cares about the production and its participants.

"I think it's one of the most difficult things you can do, but again, it goes back to the all-inclusiveness of the program and trying to give as many children and opportunity that we possibly can," Scheppner said. "So, if you have children and you live in this area, it's just a wonderful thing to do with your kids and it's something that they'll remember. And feeling a part of this community and supporting the students in this community is something I think is important."

brennon@smdp.com

LAUGHING MATTERS

FROM PAGE 6

who confirms "Everyone was in the loop" including Trump, Rudy, Barr, Pompeo, Pence and Devin Nunes.)

Meanwhile Trump's "perfect" call to President Zelinsky looks less "perfect" by the moment. And yet he continues to whine, "I've done nothing wrong!" (Which, for him, would make a fitting epitaph.)

Back in L.A., the City Council plans to vote on whether to send a letter to Major League Baseball that the Dodgers should be awarded the World Series Championships for 2017 and 2018 as both the Astros and Red Sox cheated. (The Dodgers won't be awarded the World Series Championships and Trump won't be removed from office, but he will be forever impeached.)

Clearly, I care far more about the Senate trial. Much as I love the Dodgers, I love the Constitution more.

Rachel Maddow's bombshell Part 1 interview with Lev Parnas is at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SK4-mQ19KYA. Jack is at jackdailypress@aol.com.

SEND YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

DEAL

FROM PAGE 4

America's technological supremacy — could require years of contentious talks. Skeptics say a satisfactory resolution may be next to impossible given China's ambitions to become the global leader in such advanced technologies as driverless cars and artificial intelligence.

The U.S. has dropped plans to impose tariffs on an additional $160 billion in Chinese imports, and it cut in half, to 7.5%, existing tariffs on $110 billion of good from China.

Derek Scissors, China specialist at the American Enterprise Institute, said the trade war has already delivered a benefit for Trump, even if it hasn't forced Beijing to make major changes to its economic policy: Trump's tariffs have reduced Chinese exports to the United States and narrowed America's trade deficit with China.

So far this year, the U.S. deficit with China in the trade of goods has declined by 16%, or $62 billion, to $321 billion compared with a year earlier. The deficit will narrow further if Beijing lives up to its pledges to buy dramatically more American imports.

AP Business Writer Joe McDonald in Beijing and Associated Press writer Darlene Superville contributed to this report.





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