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Santa Monica Daily Press
MONDAY
01.20.20
Volume 19 Issue 58

Live our values
It's a time for self reflection.
Page 5

Sartorial shoplifting
A man was arrested for stealing from H&M.
Page 11

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Nick Boswell Photography

DEBUTANTE: Santa Monicans Kelsey Franklin and Caroline Tilton were part of the 2019 Las Madrinas Debutante Ball supporting Children's Hospital Los Angeles. See Page 3 for more information.

SMMUSD celebrates MLK at first meeting in 2020



Brennon Dixson

MEETING: The board kicked off its first meeting of 2020 with a celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's Board of Education met for the first time in the new decade Thursday at the district offices in Santa Monica, where district leaders enjoyed a relatively short meeting.

The SMMUSD board kicked off its first meeting of 2020 with a celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, which featured a brief message from John Muir Elementary School Principal Paula Lytz and a team of students who accompanied her.

Ansel Brodkin, Lazaro Johnson, Calliope Kirschbaum, Anais Pradhan, Carmela Brizuela, Malia Duppel and Ben Cantor each took a turn speaking from the podium Thursday night, where they shared information related to King's accomplishments, speeches and why students find it important to still honor the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"In conclusion, King was a peaceful human being who believed in Civil Rights for all," Kirschbaum said during the presentation. "Even though King got arrested over 20 times, he fought against segregation and racism," and is still honored to this day.

Later in the meeting, SMMUSD's board of education agreed to adopt Resolution No. 19-15, which declares that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District aims to celebrate the life and legacy of King, who was a man who brought hope

SEE **MLK** PAGE 11

From Olympic High to Capitol Hill

BRENNON DIXSON
SMDP Staff Writer

Former Olympic High School student Dina Cervantes remembers a time when she felt as though she had no shot at a successful future, but in the time since she received her degree, Cervantes has waded into the world of politics and she now hopes to secure a seat of her own in the California State Assembly.

Cervantes declared her intention to represent the 38th Assembly District, which includes parts of the Santa Clarita, San Fernando and Simi valley areas, back in December and has already garnered an endorsement from the California Latino Legislative Caucus. She said in an interview Thursday that she has found herself in the position she is today largely because of her



Courtesy photo

DINA CERVANTES

experiences as a student here in Santa Monica.

SEE **STUDENT** PAGE 11


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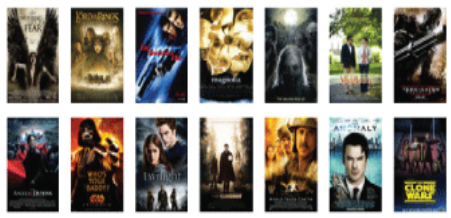
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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed proposals for

RFQ: #256 PREPARATION OF THE 6TH CYCLE HOUSING ELEMENT
• Submission Deadline is February 10, 2020 at 5:00 PM Pacific Time.

Proposals must include forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica. Request for Proposals may be obtained on the **City's Online Vendor Portal.** The website for this Request for Proposals and related documents is: Planet Bids or http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm. There is no charge for the RFP package.

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What's Up Westside
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Monday, January 20

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
Amanda Gorman – named the first-ever United States National Youth Poet Laureate in 2017 – will be the keynote speaker at the birthday celebration for Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The celebration will be held on Monday, January 20, at the SGI-USA World Peace Ikeda Auditorium, 525 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. 9 a.m.

Yoga
All levels. Drop in for $15/class or purchase a pre-paid membership through Guest Services. Parking included. Room subject to change, check-in with Guest Services before each class. Annenberg Community Beach House. 9 - 10 a.m.
https://www.annenbergbeachhouse.com/activities/classes.aspx

Tuesday, January 21

Ocean Park Mystery Book Group
Join organizers as they discuss the latest authors in the mystery genre. Meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Emphasis on international authors and locations. All are welcome. No registration required. Discussion Title: 'The Dry' by Jane Harper. 7 - 8:30 p.m.

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

Open Lab
Explore virtual reality, 3D printers, electronics kits, and other emerging technologies during this informal drop-in session. 5 - 7 p.m. Main Library.

Kids' Writers Group: Beginnings
Want to write a novel? Try out different ways to pull readers in right from the start! Ages 8-12. Main Library, 3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Write Away
Gain feedback and encouragement in your writing efforts from fellow writers in this supportive writer's meet-up. Fairview Branch Library, 12 - 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 22

Santa Monica Homeless Count
Each January, community volunteers take to the streets of Santa Monica to count some of the City's most vulnerable individuals - those experiencing street homelessness. The annual Santa Monica Homeless Count wouldn't be possible without the community coming together for one night for this point-in-time observation count. Saint Monica Catholic Community
725 California Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90403. 10:30 p.m. register online at www.weare.santamonica.gov/homeless-count

Planning Commission
The Commission acts through open and civil discourse that is informed by public input, impartial analysis, and best practices in land use and planning. City Hall, 7 p.m.

Pajama Story Time: Happy New Year!
Wear PJs and bring your favorite stuffed animal to celebrate the New Year with stories and songs. Ocean Park Branch Library, 6:30 - 7 p.m.

Read & Play
Help your child cultivate key developmental skills through books and play activities. Ages 0-5. 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Baby Story Time
Story time series for babies 0-17 months. A ticket is required to attend. A limited number of tickets are given out on a first-come, first-served basis, 15 minutes before the program, at the Information Desk. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 10:15 - 10:35 a.m.

Thursday, January 23

New Year, New Soup Recipes
We're serving up soup with Clémence Gossett from the Gourmandise School. Clémence demon-strates how to use local ingredients to make delicious soups, perfect for the colder months. A tasting follows the demo. Main Library, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Malibu

Community Members Invited to Public Design Meeting to Provide Input on Malibu's Temporary Skate Park

The City will hold the first Public Design Meeting to give community members the opportunity to give input and see designs for Malibu's temporary skate park on Wednesday, January 22 at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

"I hope that all of Malibu's skating enthusiasts and the parents of kids who skate, or hope to learn, will attend the meeting and help ensure that the temporary skate park is the best fit for the community," Mayor Karen Farrer said.

Local youth, parents and adult skate enthusiasts are invited to attend the meeting and provide input about the layout and equipment options for the temporary skate park. The meeting will be led by American Ramp Company, the City's selected design consultant for the project.

Certain design elements for the temporary skate park such as the equipment, material and the skate park's main feature, were previously reviewed by the City Council based on input received through a community survey conducted in October 2019. The results indicated that a majority of those surveyed preferred a mini-bowl as the main feature and equipment constructed from wood, concrete and SkateLite.

In 2019, the City Council approved the use of the Crummer/Case property adjacent to Malibu Bluffs Park as the location for a temporary skate park, and authorized staff to release a request for proposals (RFP) for design services for a 12,500 square-foot permanent skate park on the same property.

On November 12, 2019, the City Council reviewed the RFP for design services for a permanent skate park and authorized staff to begin the process for selecting a design consultant. The temporary skate park is expected to open on the west portion of the property in May 2020 while a permanent skate park is being designed and built on the east portion of the property.

For more information about the skate park project, including renderings and plans, visit the project web page at www.MalibuCity.org/SkatePark.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF

Citywide

Las Madrinas Benefits Children's Hospital Los Angeles

During the holiday season, Las Madrinas honored twenty-six families and their daughters for their service to the Southern California community and Children's Hospital Los Angeles at The Las Madrinas Ball on December 21, 2019 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Over 800 guests from the greater Los Angeles area and beyond, including the twenty-six Debutantes, their families, and friends, gathered to celebrate with the members of Las Madrinas.

Las Madrinas President, Kjell Nicholas Hult (Katie), formally welcomed the families and guests in attendance and thanked everyone for joining Las Madrinas in its support of important research and treatment programs at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. She spoke of their current project, the Las Madrinas Endowment for the Chief of Neurology Chair and the Neurological Institute Epilepsy Program, and thanked Paul Viviano, President and Chief Executive Officer of Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and Dr. Mark Krieger, Director of the Neurological Institute and Chief of Neurosurgery, for their leadership. Hult then recognized the Ball Chairman, Brian Mecham Webber (Megan), and the Debutante Chairman, Stephen Fitzmaurice Bennett (Chantal), for their wonderful efforts in making the evening such a success.

The Las Madrinas Ball Committee included Assistant Chair Andrew Doniger Goldman (Lisa), as well as Peter Varner Shoe-maker (Elizabeth), David Michael Reilly (Ali), Trevor Theodore Belden (Ana), Robert Charles Baggott (Susie), John Finlay Hotchkis, junior (Courtney), R. Scott Walker (Carrie), Gregory John Annick (Nancy), Henry Lea Hancock (Emily), Francis Ryan Knoll (Alison), Thomas Hamilton Link (Sheridan), Phil John Montoya, junior (Melina), and Stephen Konrad Algermissen (Liz).

The Las Madrinas Debutante Committee included Assistant Chair Todd Baldwin Dietrick (Allison), Michael Floyd Wright (Priscilla), James Watson Montgomery (Annabel), Richard Mage Keller (Jennifer), Gene Tiger Sykes (Tracy), Mario Esteban Rodriguez (Sara), John Brogan Carls (Jonna), James Paul MacPherson, junior (Cindy), John Alford Dick (Lisa), Michael Jon Fink (Tricia), Gregory Lee Mariscal (Lucinda), Paul Charles Hoffman (Christina), Kenneth Raymond Sabbag (Maggie), Louis R. Fermelia (Shane), and Harlan Holt Thompson (Ali-son).

Member husband Wayne Martin Brandt announced the Debutantes, while member husband David Thomas Balfour served as Director of Presentation. Flowers by Drew Domenghini designed the elegant florals and décor. The Wayne Foster Orchestra accompanied the Presentation of the Debutantes and played the traditional Father-Daughter Waltz that transitioned the party from presentation to celebration.

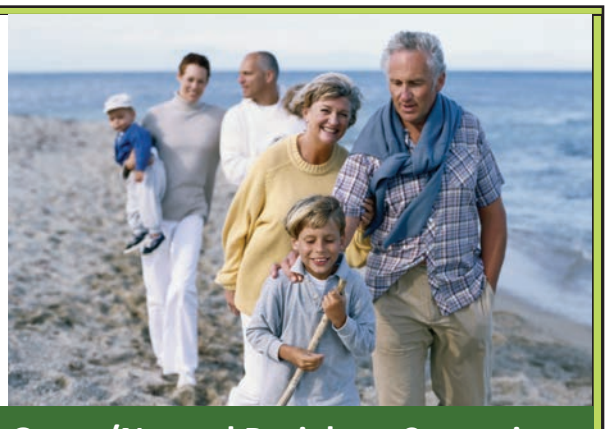
Las Madrinas was established in 1933 as the first Affiliate Group of Children's Hospital Los Angeles and has been supporting pediatric medicine for more than 86 years. Since 1939, Las Madrinas has honored families who have demonstrated a commitment to the civic, cultural, and philanthropic life of Southern California by presenting their daughters at the Las Madrinas Ball. Donations made in honor of the young women, together with the annual support of Las Madrinas members and friends, have enabled Las Madrinas to contribute funds to ten major research endowment and capital projects totaling over $25 million since 1988. This year, Las Madrinas is continuing its $5 million commitment to The Las Madrinas Endowment for the Chief of Neurology Chair and the Neurological Institute Epilepsy Program.

Children's Hospital Los Angeles is dedicated to creating hope and building healthier futures for children. Founded in 1901, CHLA is ranked the top children's hospital in the western United States, first in California and fifth in the nation for clinical excellence with its selection to the prestigious U.S. News & World Report Honor Roll of children's hospitals. The hospital relies on the generosity of the community to support its groundbreaking pediatric research and the complex care it provides for critically ill and injured children.

SUBMITTED BY JESSICA BOWLIN



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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Week of January 20, 2020



Annual Water Main Replacement Project

For the week of January 20, the contractor will continue connecting services to the new water main on 7th Court at Santa Monica Blvd., and connecting the new water main at the intersection of Broadway and 7th Court.; The contractor will also continue installing water main on Airport Avenue east of 23rd Street.; Traffic will be closed to through traffic on 7th Court and reduce traffic to one lane on Airport Ave. Please use alternate routes whenever possible.

Advanced Traffic Management System, Phase 5 Project

For the week of January 20, this project will upgrade the traffic signal equipment at four locations and install fiber optic cables along Montana Ave and 26th St. The project will provide transit priority along the corridor, allow for real-time remote monitoring and management of the traffic signals, provide public Wi-Fi along the corridor, and connect the San Vicente Reservoir and the Montana Avenue Branch Library to the City's network.

Fire Station #1 Construction Project

For the week of January 20, construction will continue throughout the project area located at 1377 7th Street. Fiber Optics excavation and installation will start on 1/9/20 will consist of sidewalk closure involving trenchwork/boring operations for conduits at 7th Court and the North sidewalk of Santa Monica Blvd. The following week will include street driving lane closure for trenching across 7th Street and on West sidewalk of 7th Street. Traffic control will be provided on 7th Street. The SM Library driveway to the UG garage will not be blocked, traffic control will guide cars to the appropriate path of travel. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Senior Construction Manager Sebastian Felbeck at (310) 434-2675.

Annual Wastewater Main Project

For the week of January 20, sewer main repair work will be taking place in the 18th Ct Alley between Washington Ave and Wilshire Pl N. Please contact Saad Malim at (310) 458-8721 with any questions/concerns regarding this project.

City Yards Modernization Project

For the week of January 20, construction will impact the project area located at 2500 Michigan Avenue, which will affect the sidewalk and parking lane on the north side of Delaware Avenue just east of 24th Street. Please contact Project Manager Sebastian Felbeck at (310) 434-2675with any questions/concerns regarding this project.

Storm Drain & Drainage Improvements Project

For the week of January 20, drainage improvements to install a bioswale and concrete culverts will take place on the north side of the intersection at 7th St and San Vicente Blvd. Please contact Saad Malim at (310) 458-8721 with any questions/concerns regarding this project.

Annual Paving, Snap Parking, & Beach Parking Project

For the week of January 20, work will take place in the beach parking lot 5S where we will be asphalt paving and striping. Please contact Jason Hoang at (310) 458-8721 with any questions/concerns regarding this project.

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Westside Together

Tara Barauskas
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

In 2020, Let's Live Our Values

The New Year is a time for self-reflection and a good time to consider what we can improve not just as individuals, but as a Santa Monica community. One of the most persistent problems in our city has been the lack of affordable housing. There is a great need—and opportunity—for us to tackle this issue with compassion and consideration. Here are some simple things that anyone can resolve to do — even just once — in the New Year.

1. LEARN ABOUT AFFORDABLE HOUSING

While you might not have time to become an expert, engaging on this crucial issue helps ensure that discussion about affordable housing is grounded in facts. Reading periodicals like the Santa Monica Daily Press (see, you're already making headway), LA Curbed, and the Los Angeles Times is a good way to get a background understanding of this complicated issue. Attending workshops, open houses, and panel discussions here in Santa Monica is a great way to hear how our city can do better — from researchers who are dedicated to this issue and the very people who manage and create affordable housing. You might be surprised to find out that there is already affordable housing close to where you live!

2. TELL OUR CITY YOU SUPPORT AFFORDABLE HOUSING

It only takes 10 minutes to look up a number, punch it in, and tell our city councilmembers that you support having affordable housing in your neighborhood. Or, if you're not much of a talker, you can send an email. You can simply say that you support keeping Santa Monica inclusive and diverse, and that you want working families, senior citizens, and disabled residents to feel at home and comfortable in our city. Telling your representatives that you support adding and expanding affordable housing where you live makes a big difference in ensuring that affordable housing providers and developers can complete projects that bring homes to our community. Finding out when affordable housing projects are being considered and supporting them is key to helping ensure that our city lives out our values.

3. TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Many people do not know much about how affordable housing looks, works, and benefits communities. Engaging with your friends and loved ones on the subject of affordable housing is a simple way to bring another ally to the table and another voice that can raise awareness of this critical issue. If talking isn't enough, sometimes bringing your loved ones to an event, like an open house or forum hosted by affordable housing providers, can help shed light on the ways that affordable housing helps cities be more sustainable, safe, and inclusive.

Focusing the conversation on people when you talk about affordable housing helps to reframe the conversation. Affordable housing means rent costs that are affordable relative to peoples' incomes. These are the people that work in schools, look after your children, serve you coffee or meals, or work in government or healthcare. These are people who should be able to live near where they work instead of commuting multiple hours a day to a job that barely makes ends meet.

4. GET INVOLVED

If you're ready to take on a more active role advocating for affordable housing, then consider joining Santa Monica's Homeless Steering Committee as a volunteer, or other neighborhood organizations that look at how our city provides housing and related services. Volunteering at events, attending community meetings as a resident who supports housing, and being out in the community supporting housing in other ways can make a huge difference in how our city handles adding affordable homes.

Whatever 2020 has in store for Santa Monica, I hope that our community members continue to work together to do what we can to ensure that our city lives out our progressive values by supporting affordable housing. These four suggestions on how to support affordable housing — which makes our city more sustainable, inclusive, and vibrant — all require different levels of engagement, but each are attainable for anyone who cares about this issue. So in 2020, let's resolve to advocate for affordable housing so working families of modest means can have the opportunity to build a brighter future.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Fairview Branch Library

Preschool Explorers: Ice Age

Learn about life during the Ice Age and free a toy animal from the ice at this story time with hands-on activity at the Fairview Library on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 3:30 pm. This free, 45-minute program will be held in Fairview's Community Room and is for children ages 3-6.

The Fairview Library is wheelchair-accessible. For special disabled services, call (310) 458-8681 at least one week prior to event. The Fairview Library is served by Big Blue Bus routes 8,16, and 44. Ride your bike. Bicycle parking racks are available at the library.

SUBMITTED BY CHRISTA MUSCATINE, YOUTH SERVICES LIBRARIAN

Malibu

Register Now for Malibu's Popular Coach Pitch Baseball and Softball

The deadline to register for the City of Malibu's excellent Coed Coach Pitch Baseball and Girls Coach Pitch Softball programs coming up fast on Friday, February 7. Each league must meet the minimum registration of 18 participants by the deadline on Friday, February 7.

The Baseball and Softball programs offer great opportunities for boys and girls ages 4 to 7 to learn the game of baseball or softball in a fun, supportive, recreational environment. In each turn at-bat, players will receive five pitches from their own coach. If they are unable to hit off the pitch, a tee will be used to ensure success. No player strikes out!

Practices are held once a week on Thursdays or Fridays at Malibu schools, and games are scheduled on Saturdays at Malibu Bluffs Park, March 7 through May 16, with no games scheduled April 11 through April 18. The practice day and location will be chosen by the volunteer parent coach, and the game schedule will be distributed following the registration deadline. The league registration fee is $150 per player and includes a jersey, picture package, and end-of-program award. Registrations received after February 7 are $175 per player and will be accepted only if space is available.

For more information contact Recreation Coordinator Rachel Cummings at 310-456-2489, ext. 358 or visit MalibuCity.org/YouthSports. Parents may register online at MalibuCity.org/Register, in-person at Malibu Bluffs Park, or in-person at Malibu City Hall.

SUBMITTED BY MATT MYERHOFF

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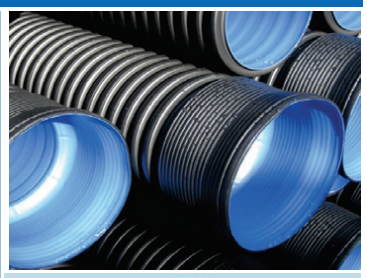
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Discharge Hoses

Fountain Pumps

Drain Pipes

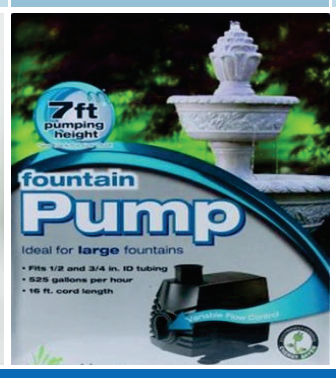
Water Boots & More













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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Los Angeles

Help Keep Siblings Together

Foster care and foster-adoption are meaningful ways for individuals and couples to fulfill their dream of parenting. Children's Bureau offers a comprehensive foster care and adoption program that brings families together for a lifetime. The agency is in need of resource families for children in foster care while reunifying with birth families or to provide legal permanency by adoption.

In Los Angeles County alone, the foster care population exceeds 21,000 children with 200 of those foster children waiting for an adoptive family. Many of these children are siblings in need of families who are willing and able to keep them together. In fact, Children's Bureau turns away at least 10 sibling sets weekly due to lack of families.

"Children's Bureau focuses on keeping siblings together whenever possible," said Amy Heilman, Children's Bureau's Director of Foster Care and Adoption. "The sibling relationship is a strong and important long-term bond in the life of a child. We see that children adjust better and find more success in life when they join a family with their siblings. It takes away that worry about the safety of their brother or sister. The child can then focus on adjusting to the family they have joined and their new environment."

Although we find loving families for more than 300 at-risk children and finalize 100 adoptions annually, the need continues for more individuals and families to become resource parents, especially ones who are able to accept siblings. Resource parents (foster and adoptive) are concerned about the well-being of children and their families. Resource parents protect and nurture children, meet children's developmental needs, support children's relationships with their birth families and do all of this as a member of a professional team.

Children's Bureau welcomes every individual regardless of race, age, religion, disability, marital status, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression to become a resource for children. Qualifying families receive training and support throughout their journey.

Children's Bureau now also offers a fee-for-service Domestic /Independent Adoption Home Study Program for families seeking the adoption of an infant whose birth mother is making an adoption plan for her newborn child.

Discover if you have the willingness, ability and resources to take on the challenge of helping children in need. A monthly information meeting is being held Saturday, January 25, from 10 a.m. to Noon at Children's Bureau's Magnolia Place, 1910 Magnolia Avenue, Los Angeles, 90007. To R.S.V.P. or for more information, please call 213-342-0162 or Toll Free 800-730-3933 or email us at RFrecruitment@all4kids.org. An application may be downloaded directly from the website at www.all4kids.org/program/foster-care/.

SUBMITTED BY MARCIA MORRIS

ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN LEADERS

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June Shine Alcoholic Kombuchas
Blood Mint, Honey Ginger, Painkiller

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 20)

Your mind lights up with big ideas, and soon you'll have several exciting projects on deck. Narrow it down. Plan well. Guard your time. With an accountability partner, you'll keep everything on course. March brings a prize. You'll journey with a kindred spirit. There's a healing in April that brings relief to your whole family. Leo and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 44, 48, 9 and 18.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Figuring out your priorities will be fun, easy and worthy work. The clearer you get about your values, the higher the quality of your thoughts will be. Your mind will organize itself to rally around what you deem important.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Negative thought loops are caused by too much introspection, rumination and self-involvement. The remedy is simple. Tune into other people's needs and see what you can do. Suddenly, you're 10 times happier.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). There are small words that fly on mighty wings. Love is in that mix. So is the admission of humility that comes in the simple series, "I don't know." That one can open worlds.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Maybe your work is self-explanatory, but the truth is that people still need help understanding. Tell, show them, and then teach it again in a different way. Do what it takes to hook them. Then, hop on the success train.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). On the highway of life, you have to be willing to change lanes, slow down and leave via the exit once in a while. Sure, there's life in the race, but it really pales when compared with life beyond those exits.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you look around, you'll either observe a powerful beauty or feel a beautiful power. You'll commit wholly to the moment, seeking to understand and be a part of this.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Today's mystic image is the tarot card "strength," in which a woman tames a lion using only tenderness. An infinity halo hovers, a reminder that fortitude is a crown from the eternal realms. You couldn't shake it if you tried.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). While there's no real glee in having to scrape together resources, there's something oddly satisfying about this excuse to call on people and find out the extent of generosity in their nature.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You will allow yourself to dissolve into the contemplation of creating. The workaday world evaporates as you're snatched out of the constant flux and thrust into the world of ideas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Though you do everything to aim your being toward joy, you'll relate to the Romantic poet William Wordsworth when he wrote of "that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts bring sad thoughts to the mind."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There's an irreversible friction between a feeling and its opposite. Knowing what the opposite actually is will be a helpful processing tool, i.e.: admiration and loathing, fear and anger, anticipation and surprise, etc.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Because things are more beautiful when they are true, you'll think twice about certain so-called improvements, especially if they are costly and aimed toward meeting some sort of societal ideal.

Aquarius Sunburst

The sun breaks into the realm of Aquarius, and the fiery Sagittarius moon reflects its light. Ideas fall like snowflakes, unique, delicate, landing beautifully. Practical ideas will be immediately actionable; impractical ones are fanciful flight tickets. Take advantage of this burst of intellectual energy by moving quickly on the ideas that might help everyone get what they need.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS

"What does it mean when you meet or see someone and you feel in your guts that you've met them before; however, you know you actually never have? And what about when you feel that you are meant to be, even though you never talked to them extensively? It can't just be sexual attraction, although that is also very much there. There's a stronger connection, but I can't put my finger on it. I'm an Aquarius; he is a Sagittarius." I would characterize it as either past life stuff or destiny's tap, but I wouldn't bring it up to the party in question. The feeling that you've known someone is beautiful for its rarity, and the thrilling immediacy and strange comfort it brings – a sensation of coming back to the long lost. Where it gets dangerous is in assuming you know things about him that you really don't. Just be careful to pay attention and get to know who is really standing before you instead of relying on the picture and story that's already in your mind about who this is. That's either a remembrance or a projection, neither of which has to do with right now. Try to stay in the moment with this.

CELEBRITY PROFILES

Perhaps best known for his portrayal of Dwight Schrute on the television series "The Office," Rainn Wilson actually has little in common with the beet-farming, egomaniacal Schrute. Perhaps the Capricorn comic master tapped into his natal alignment of the sun, moon and Mercury in Capricorn for motivation. Capricorn energy is ambitious, organized and keen to sort out and rule power structures. These talents can be effectively applied toward mastery in any area of life. **Write Holiday Mathis at HolidayMathis.com.**

WORD UP!

Riposte
Noun
A quick, sharp return in speech or action; counterstroke: a brilliant riposte to an insult.

Heathcliff

By PETER GALLAGHER



"IT'S SAFE TO SAY WE'RE CAT PEOPLE."

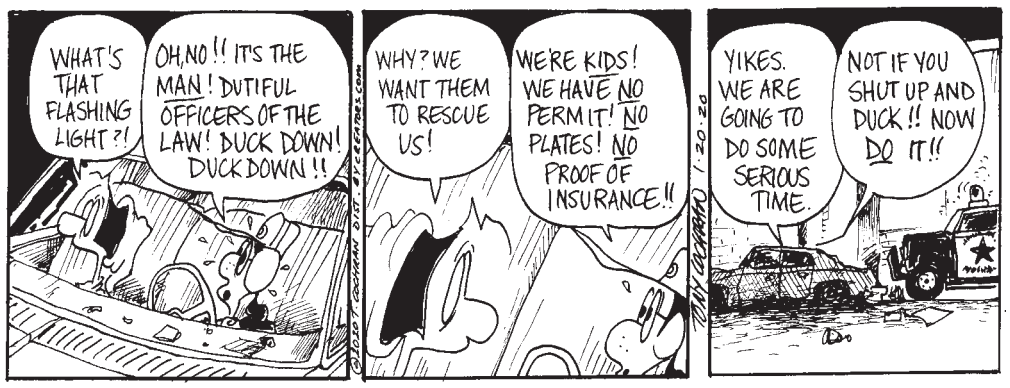
Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



Zack Hill

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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
3 18 20 28 29

Daily 3
Draw Date: 01/17
Midday: 2 0 4
Draw Date: 01/16
Evening: 2 9 5

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 01/15
1st: 07 - EUREKA
2nd: 01 - GOLD RUSH
3rd: 04 - BIG BEN
RACE TIME: 1:47.01

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: 62.7°

MONDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Fresh WNW swell-mix. Deep morning high tide, negative low in the afternoon.

TUESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Overlapping WNW swells. Deep morning high tide, negative low in the afternoon.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

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

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

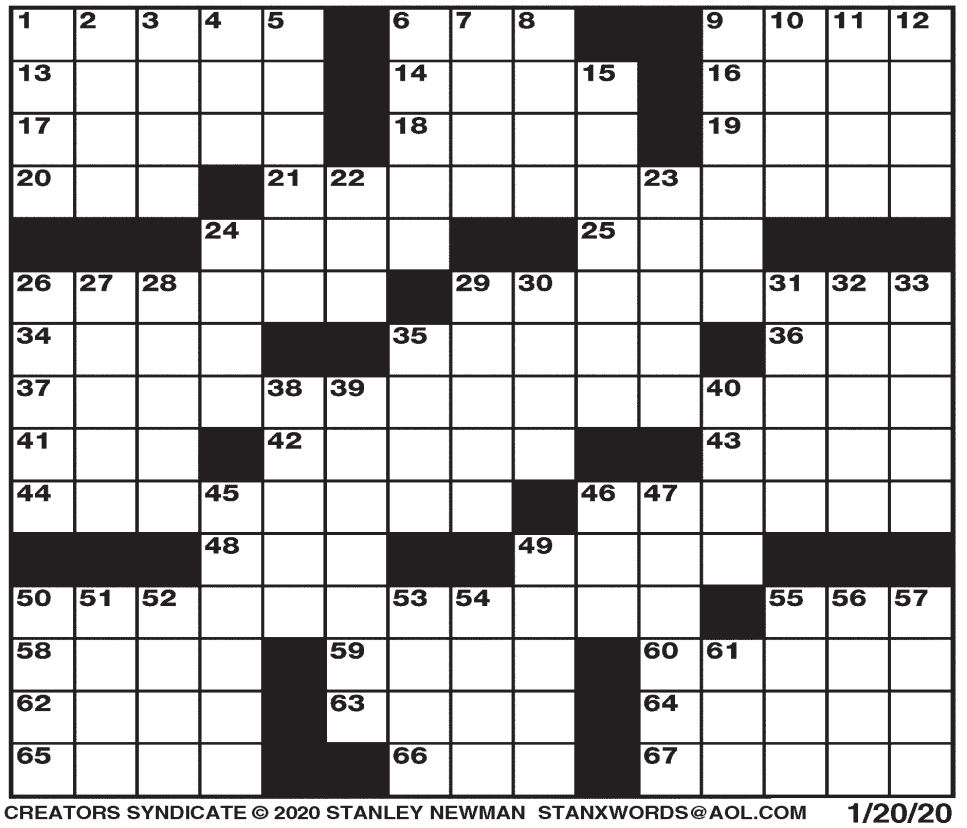
		5	6		1	2		
	3		7		5		4	
	8					6		7
8	6	9		7		5		4
			4		6			
1		2		5		3	7	6
9		4					8	
	5		3		4		9	
		7	2		8	4		

Newsday Crossword

"EQUALS" ADAGES by Brad Wilber
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Back-to-health plan, for short
6 "In __ we trust"
9 Have the leading role
13 In the know
14 Skeptical reply
16 Cry of dread
17 Bacteria that cause an illness
18 Small tunneling mammal
19 Allows
20 Mind reader's skill, for short
21 "Delays are always expensive"
24 Secret writing
25 Light brown color
26 Archer's missiles
29 Installed overlapping rectangles on a roof
34 Deliberately avoid
35 Sandal strap
36 Biblical apple eater
37 "The less said the better"
41 Compass point opposite WSW
42 43 Across, more formally
43 "You __ kidding!"
44 Hare's race opponent
46 Is significant enough
48 "I wonder . . ."
49 Gelatin shaper
50 "Cupid can hide someone's flaws"
55 Banquet toastmasters, briefly
58 "If I might interrupt . . ."
59 Word-of-mouth
60 Online memo
62 Location
63 Appoint to a job
64 Fry lightly
65 Soft throw
66 Auto's rte.-finding device
67 Attempted

DOWN
1 Fury
2 Mothers of lambs
3 Angel's instrument
4 Limb covered by a sleeve
5 Give as a gift
6 "Leggo of that!"
7 Clarinet cousin
8 Local sandwich shop
9 "Bye!"
10 Now and __ (occasionally)
11 Poker player's entrance fee
12 Reddish, as cheeks
15 Giving an exam to
22 Passports and dog tags, for short
23 Tropical fruit in salsa
24 Edible ice cream holder
26 Any thing of value
27 One-horned African beast
28 Measuring stick
29 Glisten
30 Party thrower
31 Ushered through the door
32 Notable happening
33 Bumper dings
35 Pegs holding up golf balls
38 Actress Watts or singer Judd
39 Dark red
40 Give praise to
45 Central ideas
46 Pro and __
47 Most senior
49 Odometer measures
50 At long __ (finally)
51 Cincinnati's state
52 Animal docs
53 Be boastful
54 Night-table light
55 Island near Oahu
56 Mention as an example
57 Snow-gliding vehicle
61 Scratch up



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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2019326011 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/20/2019 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Maria Ellersick CSR 10531. 3301 GreenField Ave , Los Angeles, CA 90034. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Maria Ellersick 3301 GreenField Ave Los Angeles, CA 90034. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Maria Ellersick . Maria Ellersick . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/20/2019. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/30/2019, 01/06/2020, 01/13/2020, 01/20/2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2019326935 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/20/2002 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as MoneyLine Sports and Entertainment, MoneyLine Sports . 21213 Hawthorne Blvd Ste 5437 , Torrance, CA 90503. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Darren John Morris 21213 Hawthorne Blvd Ste 5437 Torrance, CA 90503. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)12/2019. /s/: Darren John Morris . Darren John Morris . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/20/2002. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/30/2019, 01/06/2020, 01/13/2020, 01/20/2020.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2019326933 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/20/2019 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as IES , Innovative Energy Solutions . 21213 Hawthorne Blvd Ste 5437 , Torrance, CA 90503. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Darren John Morris 21213 Hawthorne Blvd Ste 5437 Torrance, CA 90503. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)12/2019. /s/: Darren John Morris . Darren John Morris . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/20/2019. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/30/2019, 01/06/2020, 01/13/2020, 01/20/2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2020003773 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/07/2020 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Permitwiz. 947 16th St Unit 1 , Santa Monica, CA 90403. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Robert Packham 947 16th St Unit 1 Santa Monica, CA 90403. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)01/2020. /s/: Robert Packham . Robert Packham . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/07/2020. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 01/13/2020, 01/20/2020, 01/27/2020, 02/03/2020.

DBA

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: FILE NUMBER: 2016088781. DATE FILED: April 12, 2016. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as PERMITWIZ 9108 W 25TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90034. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: MIKE SIROTA 9108 W 25TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90034 . This Business is being conducted by: a INDIVIDUAL. I declare that all the information in this statement is true and correct. A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime. REGISTRANT (NAME/CORP/LLCNAME) (PRINT): MIKE SIROTA . REGISTRANT SIGNATURE: MIKE SIROTA. If Corporation, also print corporate title of officer. If LLC, also print title of office or manager. The Statement was filed with the county clerks of Los Angeles on 01/07/2020 FILE NUMBER 2020003743. I HERBY CERTIFIY THAT THIS COPY IS A CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL STATEMENT ON FILE IN MY OFFICE: Dean C Logan Los Angles County Clerk. BY: ISAURA CORREA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2020004919 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/08/2020 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Hot Solutions . 14007 Palawan Way Apt 106 , Marina Del Rey, CA 90292. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Mark Phillip Sugarman 14007 Palawan Way Apt 106 Marina Del Rey, CA 90292. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)01/2020. /s/: Mark Phillip Sugarman. Mark Phillip Sugarman. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/08/2020. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 01/13/2020, 01/20/2020, 01/27/2020, 02/03/2020.

DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2020004911 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/08/2020 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Marcmade . 440 Raymond Ave #12 , Santa Monica, CA 90405. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Marc B Reynolds 440 Raymond Ave #12 Santa Monica, CA 90405. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)01/2020. /s/: Marc B Reynolds . Marc B Reynolds . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/08/2020. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 01/13/2020, 01/20/2020, 01/27/2020, 02/03/2020.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2019320651 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 01/13/2020 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Soleil Sunwear. 1454 12th St Unit A , Santa Monica, CA 90401. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Christy Moody 1454 12th St Unit A Santa Monica, CA 90401. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)12/2019. /s/: Christy Moody . Christy Moody . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 01/13/2020. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 01/13/2020, 01/20/2020, 01/27/2020, 02/03/2020.

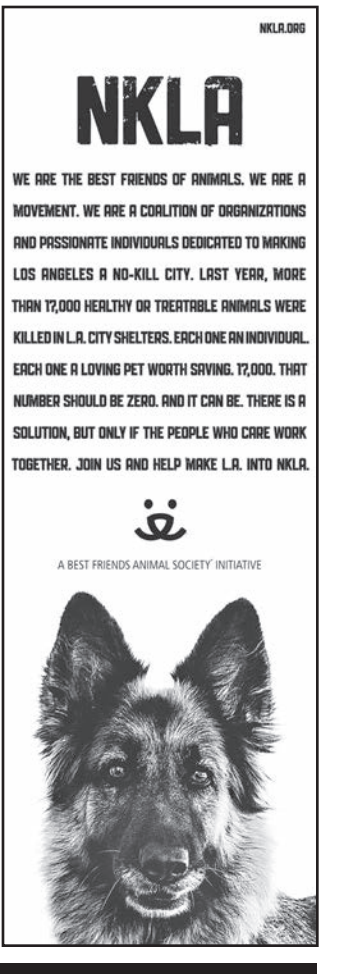
Name Change

Un-named
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 19SMCP00598
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of Hamid Mashhoudy for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: Hamid Mashhoudy filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Hamid Mashhoudy to Harry Hamid Mashoudy The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: 02/21/2020, Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K, Room: A-203
The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 1725 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.
Date: Dec 27, 2019

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 19SMCP00589
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: Nichole Lynne Kenton filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Nichole Lynne Kenton to Nicole Lynn Kenton. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: 02/07/2020, Time: 8:30 a.m
Dept: k, Room: A-203
The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 1725 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.
Date: Dec 28, 2019

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. 20SMCP00016
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of Susan Collum for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: Susan Collum filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Susan Collum to Susan Kaplan The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: 03/06/2020, Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K, Room: A-203
The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, 1725 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.
Date: January 10, 2020



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 JANUARY 9, 2020 AT 8:20 P.M.

Officers were called to H&M located in the 1400 block of Third Street Promenade. Upon arrival, they met with store employees who stated that a male subject who was known to have stolen in prior incidents was recently in the store and ran out causing the sensor alarms to activate indicating property had been taken from the store without having the sensor tags removed. Officers in the area found a male suspect who matched the description in the 1400 block of 2nd Street. The suspect was positively identified and found to be in possession of clothing from the store that had not been paid for. This suspect was involved in a separate incident at Victoria's Secret on January 4, in which an edged weapon was used in the commission of a robbery. Taylor Patrick Aull, 26, homeless, was arrested for robbery. Bail was set at $50,000.



File photo

TAYLOR PATRICK AULL

MLK

FROM PAGE 1

and healing to America.

"We commemorate the timeless values he taught us through his example – the values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility and service that so radiantly defined Dr. King's character and empowered his leadership," the resolution states. "On this holiday, we commemorate the universal, unconditional love, forgiveness and nonviolence that empowered his revolutionary spirit, and speaks to the best of who we are as human beings."

Not too long after the celebration, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Jacqueline Mora took the podium to head a study session where staff and the board of education reviewed student achievement data related to the district's FASTbridge screening assessments as well as the district's interim assessments for English Language Arts and Math in all grades.

The presentation focused on the lead data from quarter 2, which has been collected since the beginning of the 2019-20 school year, according to Mora.

"This is a process that we engage in four times a year," Mora said, before stating a copy of the presentation is currently available online at bit.ly/2u7itn4.

Later, during the meeting's Major Action Items section, the board adopted its second resolution of the night, which encourages all schools and teachers in SMMUSD to observe the Fred T. Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution on Jan. 30.

"Fred T. Korematsu was one of these individuals, who refused to comply with Civilian Exclusion Order 34, based on the federal Executive Order 9066, which imposed strict curfew regulations and required 120,000 Japanese Americans to leave their homes to be incarcerated in American concentration camps during World War II," the resolution states.

The approval of a 2018-19 Annual Financial Audit Report was the final action item of the night, and after a short rundown of the 2018-19 Annual Financial Audit Report by Craig Hartzheim of from Moss, Levy and Hartzheim LLP, SMMUSD's board of education moved to adopt the findings of the audit report.

brennon@smdp.com

STUDENT

FROM PAGE 1

FINDING A VOICE

Once labeled as an at-risk youth, Cervantes attended Olympic High for a portion of her junior and senior years in high school.

"The reason I ended up at Olympic was because I was hanging with the wrong crowd and friends who were gang-affiliated," she said. "It wasn't even just the fact that I had friends like that — there were gangsters in the home. And in high school, I was having a very hard time and I was looking for a connection so I learned to trust people who made me feel connected and welcome, but we were collectively going down the wrong path."

Cervantes explained how Olympic High was not held in the same light as it is today due to its reputation as a place where the troubled kids went to have a "last-chance" opportunity.

"But interestingly enough, it was also a place where you couldn't hide," Cervantes said, naming two teachers who sat her down and said she's too smart to throw away her future, "which really had me consider my life choices and reminded me there was so much more available."

With the assistance and encouragement of a few Olympic teachers and staff, Cervantes started her first class at SMC while still enrolled in high school. She was also working her first job as a preschool teacher's assistant so she opted to enroll in the college's early childhood education program.

"When I started the classes, I had no idea what was happening in the state or anywhere else outside of my job, my boyfriend and having fun," Cervantes said. "And really, I always tell people that I was a student who would go to class, do my work and get out of there as soon as I could."

But that changed in 2002 when former Gov. Gray Davis proposed cuts to higher education, which forced Santa Monica College officials to consider ending some of the school's vocational programs.

"What we saw and what we were experiencing at the college level was the fact that those cuts were directly going to be affecting working-class people and people of color," Cervantes said. "And it was a moment where there was so much anger towards what was happening that we felt we had to do something. So I remember we started organizing students."

Complaining to anybody who would hear them out, Cervantes and her fellow SMC students started protesting and soon connected with other community colleges that were facing similar cuts.

"In 2002, we took 15,000 students to the state capitol," Cervantes said, and it was here where she experienced her political awakening.

"It really was the switch that taught me, personally, the value of my contribution and the importance of knowing I have my own voice," Cervantes said. "I didn't think my voice mattered before that — especially coming from where I was coming from."

Cervantes would move on from SMC in 2005 and transfer to California State University, Northridge where she was elected chair of the California State Student Association.

After graduation, the former Corsair found herself in the renewable energy arena before becoming involved with the Democratic Party.

Today, Cervantes is a resident of the San Fernando Valley who has called Granada Hills home for more than 20 years, "but my work has taken me all across Southern California," the candidate said, listing the multitude of political positions she has previously held.

In 2014-2015, Cervantes opted to take time off from work after losing a child while pregnant, but upon her return to the workforce, she went to work as a Campaign Manager for Assemblywoman Wendy Carrillo.

After a successful campaign, "We dropped off Wendy in Sacramento on January 3rd," Cervantes said, mentioning how she then headed down to Long Beach to begin her job as chief of staff for Long Beach City Councilmember Jeannine Pearce less than 72 hours later.

Cervantes left Pearce's staff in March of 2019 and was pursuing a seat on the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees when she received an invitation to consider an Assembly seat left vacant.

"So I jumped in, filed the paperwork and here we are," Cervantes said, sharing her excitement at the possibility of potentially impacting education, the environment and the working-class.

"I think about my path a lot and it's funny because I'm still that kid that was at the continuation high school," Cervantes said. "I still have moments when I can't believe that I've had the privilege to do the work I've gotten to do, so I want to share with students that there's so much possibility out there — and our current environment and circumstances don't have to dictate where we end up."

Cervantes added she never thought she'd find herself in the position she is in today, "but everything I've done in politics is because I jumped in and took the chance."

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