smdp
Santa Monica Daily Press

WEDNESDAY
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Crime Watch
Maybe he just needed a fork.
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Malibu fatality
Man dies in PCH crash.
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Malibu revs the engine on PCH traffic signal project

Malibu leaders move forward on a traffic signal synchronization project designed to speed up traffic and avoid fender-benders on Pacific Coast Highway.

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Malibu's stretch of Pacific Coast Highway — once known as a shortcut for travel between Santa Monica and Ventura County — has of late earned its reputation as a clogged traffic artery on the westside of Los Angeles County. For Malibu residents and visitors (particularly cyclists), it's also known as a dangerous thoroughfare where several people are killed in traffic collisions each year.

It was for that reason that the City of Malibu commissioned a traffic safety study for the roadway. That study was completed in 2015.

The safety study, which gathered three years' worth of data along Malibu's 21-mile stretch of PCH, recorded 1,000 collisions, 376 of which caused injuries and nine of which resulted in fatalities. According to the safety study, the most common types of incidents were rear-end collisions approaching signalized intersections.

The study suggested 130 potential projects to help alleviate some of the traffic dangers; chief among them, ranked at No. 1, was to "Install communication between signals and connect signals back to Caltrans TMC [transportation management center]."

Details of the proposed project

SEE **PCH TRAFFIC** PAGE 11

IntoMeSea Ribbon Cutting



Clara Harter

NOW OPEN: **Mayor Sue Himmelrich and Chamber of Commerce President Laurel Rosen attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for IntoMeSea, a new wellness studio that offers state-of-the-art healing therapies from around the world including Floatation Meditation, Galactic White Crystal Quartz Tub Soaking experiences and Lucia N°03 Light Travel. Visit https://www.intomesea.com for more information.**

Massive redevelopment of Providence Saint John's heads to Planning Commission



Courtesy photo

HOSPITAL: **The project has been on the books for years.**

CLARA HARTER
SMDP Staff Writer

The long-planned Phase Two redevelopment of Providence Saint John's Health Center is heading to Planning Commission with Providence Health Systems seeking approval for an overhaul of its South Campus facilities and sign-off on an

SEE **SAINT JOHN'S** PAGE 6

School Board to discuss building projects at Wednesday special meeting

EMILY SAWICKI
SMDP Staff Writer

Voters in Santa Monica and Malibu took to ballot boxes in 2018 to voice their support for major school site improvements, with Malibu passing the $195 million Measure M bond and Santa Monica passing the $485 million Measure SMS bond. In the time since, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) has begun work on projects to improve school facilities in both communities.

At a special meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 26, the SMMUSD Board of Education will be discussing how to spend some of those massive bonds at school modernization projects in the two cities.

SANTA MONICA

Above all else, Santa Monica's Measure SMS was designed to improve facilities at Samohi.

"The primary focus of Measure SMS will be to continue implementing the Samohi Campus Plan, improving the high school for all Santa Monica students," according to the SMMUSD website.

The Samohi Discovery Building opened at the start of the current 2021-22 school year; the Exploration Building and Gold Gym were expected to be in operation by 2023.

With that project well underway, on Wednesday, a School Board discussion will focus on allocating the balance of that bond to projects at various Santa Monica elementary and middle schools.

The District has plans in the works at four local elementary schools and one local middle school, with two other school sites still being considered for improvement projects.

The SMMUSD Board of Education is now being asked to give direction on designs to renovate and expand the Grant Elementary library, plus renovate the school's courtyard and consolidate TK and kindergarten classrooms; construct a classroom building, field and playground at Will Rogers Elementary; construct a makerspace building and improve TK/kindergarten facilities at Franklin Elementary; construct

SEE **SMMUSD** PAGE 7



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All Super Bowl Attendees Will Get a KN95 Mask, Reminders of Mask Requirement

City News Service

Every person attending the Super Bowl at SoFi Stadium next month will be given a KN95 mask and will receive repeated reminders about the requirement that masks be worn throughout the event, except while eating or drinking.

"For the past three months, (Department of Public Health) staff have been working closely with the NFL and SoFi Stadium to plan for an exciting and safe Super Bowl experience in L.A. for fans, residents and workers," county Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer told the Board of Supervisors. "There's been an extraordinary level of cooperation focused on a shared commitment to compliance with public health safety measures at all NFL-sponsored events."

The county will also be working with the NFL to offer free COVID-19 rapid tests and vaccinations at the Super Bowl Experience attraction, which will be for two weekends, beginning Feb. 5, at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Ferrer said people who receive a vaccination will get free admission to the Convention Center event. All attendees will also receive a free take-home rapid-test kit.

According to Ferrer, an estimated 60,000 take-home kits are expected to be distributed to people during the Super Bowl Experience.

"At the Super Bowl, every fan will receive a KN95 mask, and safety team members will be reminding fans at both SoFi and the L.A. Convention Center to keep their masks on unless they're actively eating or drinking," Ferrer said.

She said public health staff will be on site at all Super Bowl-related events, including some planned at the YouTube Theater outside SoFi Stadium and at Crypto.com Arena in downtown Los Angeles.

"All of these events will comply with vaccination and testing requirements for mega-events, and for some of the smaller events, they will comply with L.A. city's requirements for people to be fully vaccinated to enter into those venues," Ferrer said. "Staff will be assigned to be at all event locations that will ensure compliance with the requirements."

She noted that masks are a critical part of those requirements.

"Masks are required at all times to enter all of the events, to be in common areas, to purchase at concession stands and at indoor shops," Ferrer told the board. "The NFL will also be urging all fans to celebrate safely wherever they'll be gathering, and will offer attendees at the Super Bowl Experience at the L.A. Convention Center a free test kit to take home with messaging to test before gathering for the big game."

Ferrer said the county will launch a public outreach effort next week to encourage COVID safety by everyone planning to attend Super Bowl gatherings.

"We know that many across the county will be watching the Super Bowl at gatherings in their homes or at restaurants and bars," she said. "We anticipate launching social media campaigns starting next week to help residents with information about how to prepare for exciting, enjoyable and safe L.A. Super Bowl activities."

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

UCLA

UCLA Police Seek Public Help to Find Suspects in Campus Robbery

Authorities Tuesday sought public help to find three suspects who beat and robbed a UCLA student on campus.

The crime occurred at about 1:30 p.m. Monday, according to UCLA police. The victim suffered minor injuries.

One suspect "punched the victim and stole property that the victim had previously agreed to sell to the suspect," police said in a statement. "A second suspect confronted the victim when the victim attempted to get his property back from the first suspect. A third suspect was driving the suspect vehicle that the two other suspects ran to and fled the area with the property."

Police released security image of the first suspect and the vehicle. The suspect was described as having a slim build and being in his late teens or early 20s, 5-feet-9 inches tall, with brown Afro-style hair, police said. He was wearing a blue sweater and gray sweatpants.

The second suspect was described as a male of unknown race, with a dark complexion, black hair and brown eyes. He wore a black sweater. The driver of the getaway vehicle was described only as a male.

The vehicle was described as a 2009 four-door teal Saturn Aura, license number 8EGX642.

Anyone with information on the case was urged to call police at 310- 825-1491.

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$60,000 in Reward Money Under Consideration to Solve Killing of Teen

City News Service

Two Los Angeles City Councilmen introduced a motion Tuesday calling for the city to offer a $50,000 reward for information that leads to the conviction of the person responsible for the shooting death of a 16-year-old girl whose body was found dumped alongside the Harbor (110) Freeway.

The motion, which is expected to be voted upon in the next week, was introduced by Councilmen Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Curren Price. The motion came on the same day the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is expected to approve a $10,000 reward offer in the case.

The county reward proposal was introduced by Supervisor Holly Mitchell.

On Saturday, a group of activists gathered and pushed for elected officials to offer a reward for information in the killing of Tioni Theus, whose body was found Jan. 8 on the side of the freeway on the Manchester Avenue on-ramp near South Figueroa Street in South Los Angeles.

Activists had said the absence of a reward in the killing of the young Black girl stands in stark contrast to the $250,000 reward offered in the search for the killer of 24-year-old Brianna Kupfer, a Pacific Palisades resident and UCLA grad student who was fatally stabbed Jan. 13 inside a boutique furniture store in Hancock Park.

Tioni had last been seen Jan. 7 after telling a family member she was going to meet a friend to go to a party, officials said. No further information was provided, and no suspect description was available.

Speaking to the Los Angeles Police Commission, Los Angeles Police Department Chief Michel Moore said Tuesday the case was something that "all of Los Angeles should be paying close attention to."

He added that other than the anticipated reward money, "the incentive should be that we know in our community that this murder did not occur in a vacuum and that ... this young girl was tragically taken from us and the people responsible are still amongst us, which poses an imminent risk to all of us."

The investigation is being handled by the California Highway Patrol, but the LAPD offered investigative assistance. Moore told the Police Commission the CHP hasn't yet identified a suspect or description of the suspect or involved vehicle.

"Ms. Theus lived in Compton and was a student at Centennial High School," according to the county motion. "She was reportedly living with her father as her mother recovered from a serious hit-and-run accident. Family members say she was a straight-A student and enjoyed dance and golf.

"Investigators are urging anyone with information about this incident to contact the California Highway Patrol. A reward will encourage members of the public to come forward with information that can help identify the individual(s) responsible for her death."

Price, meanwhile, said, "Tioni was a young lady with so much promise, joy and spirit with God-given gifts and talents to give to the world. She had so much to live for and countless unfinished dreams. It's disheartening to know that the person or persons responsible for her killing are still on the loose while a family and entire community continues to grieve in search for answers.

"I stand in solidarity with the Theus family and all Angelenos demanding justice in her name so that her family and loved ones can find solace in knowing that the ones who chose to end this vibrant girl's life will answer to their crime."

Speaking with community activists at Saturday's news conference, Rashida Kincy, a cousin of Tioni, described her as a "vibrant young lady that was just cut from so much that was ahead of her."

"This has been a tragedy to my family, to the community," she said.

California Highway Patrol Capt. Jeff Lofton spoke at the news conference, asking anyone with information to come forward.

"If you're from the community here and you have cameras in your vehicle and you were driving along the route, along the 110 Freeway that morning, please look at your video," Lofton said. "If you find something at Manchester and the 110, call investigators."

Activists said they also want the state to put up reward money in Tioni's death.

"It's important that Governor (Gavin) Newsom and state elected officials realize that Tioni Theus' life mattered," activist Najee Ali said. "The fact that someone could shoot and kill a young woman and dump her body on the side of the freeway like she was trash is outrageous."

A representative for the governor's office said there is a crime tip reward program under the state's penal code, but it requires law enforcement officials to submit a recommendation for a reward to the governor. The governor then reviews the recommendation and can authorize a reward in qualifying cases.

On Thursday, the CHP posted photos of Tioni on Twitter and asked for anyone with information about her killing to call the agency at 323-644-9557.

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DAILY POLICE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 263 CALLS ON JANUARY 24

Vehicle Cite & Tow (Parking Problem) 21st St / Pearl St 12:16 a.m.
Arson 1500Blk 4th St 12:32 a.m.
Prowler Just Left 100Blk Ocean Park Blvd 12:48 a.m.
Overdose 1400Blk Berkeley St 1:44 a.m.
Auto Burglary 00Blk Pico Blvd 4:22 a.m.
Vandalism 300Blk Civic Center Dr 5:21 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 5:54 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2200Blk Ocean Ave 6:38 a.m.
Vandalism 1300Blk 2nd St 7:12 a.m.
Family Disturbance 2500Blk Lincoln Blvd 7:12 a.m.
Vandalism 600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 7:25 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 1000Blk Ocean Ave 7:34 a.m.
Animal Related Incident 2200Blk The Beach 7:45 a.m.
Vandalism 1300Blk 4th St 8:19 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2400Blk Virginia Ave 8:20 a.m.
General Parking Problem 2400Blk 16th St 8:22 a.m.
Vandalism 2nd St / Santa Monica Blvd 8:27 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2400Blk Ocean Front Walk 8:29 a.m.
Family Disturbance 1300Blk 14th St 9:07 a.m.
Burglary 2400Blk 4th St 9:08 a.m.
Vandalism Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 9:11 a.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 2100Blk Yorkshire Ave 9:13 a.m.
General Parking Problem 300Blk Olympic Dr 9:14 a.m.
Encampment 2200Blk Virginia Ave 9:17 a.m.
Fraud 1100Blk Santa Monica Blvd 9:20 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 2600Blk Ocean Front Walk 9:26 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 1800Blk Delaware Ave 9:28 a.m.
Identity Theft 1200Blk Marine St 9:33 a.m.
Burglary 2600Blk Pico Blvd 9:40 a.m.
Armed Robbery 1400Blk 16th St 9:46 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1700Blk Idaho Ave 9:46 a.m.
Vehicle Blocking Driveway 2500Blk 3rd St 9:55 a.m.
Vandalism Pacific Coast Hwy / California Incline 10:28 a.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 10:28 a.m.
Family Disturbance 1300Blk 14th St 10:52 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1400Blk Palisades Beach rd 11:05 a.m.
Indecent Exposure 1600Blk 5th St 11:13 a.m.
Burglary 2500Blk Michigan Ave 11:21 a.m.
Theft Suspect In Custody 200Blk Broadway 11:42 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 100Blk Olympic Dr 11:42 a.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 100Blk Wadsworth Ave 11:44 a.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 2100Blk Pearl St 11:44 a.m.
Encampment 1700Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:46 a.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 100Blk Olympic Dr 12:04 p.m.
Lost Property 300Blk Olympic Dr 12:06 p.m.
Lost Property 16th St / Santa Monica Blvd 12:07 p.m.
Burglary 1500Blk 4th St 12:11 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1400Blk 6th St 12:18 p.m.
Burglary 1500Blk Broadway 12:25 p.m.
Threats Report/Investigations 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 12:30 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1600Blk 10th St 12:47 p.m.
Silent Robbery Alarm 800Blk Pico Blvd 1:13 p.m.
Identity Theft 200Blk San Vicente Blvd 1:43 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 20th St / California Ave 1:43 p.m.
Grand Theft Auto 1500Blk Ocean Ave 1:44 p.m.
Silent Burglar Alarm 2400Blk Wilshire Blvd 1:45 p.m.
Mark & Tag Abandoned Vehicle 700Blk Hill St 1:56 p.m.
Theft Suspect In Custody 200Blk Broadway 1:56 p.m.
Traffic Collision - No Injuries City Prop Involved 1000Blk Ocean Ave 2:16 p.m.
Self Initiated 1000Blk Ocean 2:24 p.m.
Identity Theft 900Blk Berkeley St 2:28 p.m.
Animal Related Incident 1000Blk The Beach 2:36 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600Blk Barnard Way 3:35 p.m.
General Parking Problem 600Blk Pico Blvd 3:39 p.m.
Burglary 2700Blk Neilson Way 3:46 p.m.
Failure To Pay Parking Fee 2600Blk Barnard Way 3:58 p.m.
Grand Theft 1200Blk 23rd St 4:04 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injuries Lincoln Blvd / Ashland Ave 4:51 p.m.
72 Hour Psychiatric Hold 1400Blk 3rd Street Prom 5:10 p.m.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Investigation 700Blk Grant St 6:29 p.m.
Assault Just Occurred 100Blk Wilshire Blvd 6:31 p.m.
Vehicle Parked In Alley 1200Blk 17th St 6:32 p.m.
Audible Burglar Alarm 1300Blk 7th St 6:42 p.m.
Vehicle Burglar Alarm 2100Blk Montana Ave 6:48 p.m.
Drunk Driving Investigation Cloverfield Blvd / Michigan Ave 6:49 p.m.
Speeding 1600Blk Ocean Ave 7:09 p.m.
Encampment 1700Blk Wilshire Blvd 7:13 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

SMDP STAFF CHOSE THE FOLLOWING FROM 46 CALLS ON JANUARY 24

EMS 1400Blk Berkeley St 1:44 a.m.
EMS 900Blk Santa Monica Blvd 2:11 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2300Blk 31st St 2:58 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300Blk 2nd St 3:04 a.m.
Trash/Dumpster Fire 400Blk Colorado Ave 3:50 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1000Blk Ocean Ave 5:18 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 800Blk 4th St 6:58 a.m.
EMS 700Blk Strand St 8:08 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 2400Blk Washington Ave 8:13 a.m.
EMS 1600Blk 20th St 9:23 a.m.
EMS 800Blk 9th St 9:26 a.m.
EMS 1700Blk Idaho Ave 9:36 a.m.
EMS 1300Blk 3rd Street Prom 10:40 a.m.
EMS 300Blk 26th St 11:02 a.m.
EMS 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 11:35 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1900Blk Pico Blvd 11:46 a.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 1800Blk Lincoln Blvd 11:49 a.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 2000Blk 21st St 11:52 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300Blk 2nd St 11:59 a.m.
Automatic Alarm 1300Blk 2nd St 12:12 p.m.
EMS 1100Blk 26th St 12:42 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire 1000Blk Pico Blvd 12:55 p.m.
EMS 2500Blk 7th St 1:09 p.m.
EMS 1500Blk Berkeley St 2:34 p.m.
EMS 300Blk 26th St 2:38 p.m.
EMS 3300Blk Pico Blvd 2:47 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk 4th St 3:14 p.m.
Miscellaneous Outside Fire Lincoln Blvd / Interstate 10 3:44 p.m.
EMS 1200Blk Lincoln Blvd 4:33 p.m.
EMS 1600Blk Santa Monica Blvd 4:48 p.m.
Traffic Collision With Injury Lincoln Blvd / Ashland Ave 4:51 p.m.
EMS 3100Blk Neilson Way 6:46 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 2000Blk 4th St 7:03 p.m.
EMS 500Blk Olympic Blvd W 7:31 p.m.
Elevator Rescue 1400Blk Ocean Ave 7:49 p.m.
EMS 2800Blk Santa Monica Blvd 8:13 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 9:01 p.m.
EMS 500Blk Bay St 9:23 p.m.
EMS 200Blk Ocean Ave 10:02 p.m.
EMS 2000Blk Arizona Ave 10:36 p.m.
EMS 1700Blk 4th St 11:42 p.m.
EMS 100Blk Broadway 11:45 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 17th St 11:47 p.m.
Smoke Investigation 1600Blk Wilshire Blvd 11:48 p.m.
EMS 1300Blk 15th St 11:49 p.m.
Odor Of Natural Gas 1300Blk 2nd St 11:51 p.m.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Malibu

One Killed in Multi-Vehicle Crash in Malibu

A young man was killed Tuesday in a multi-vehicle crash in Malibu.

Parker Sweet, 18, of Canoga Park, was fatally injured about 12:15 a.m. in the 2000 block of Malibu Canyon Road, according to the Los Angeles County coroner's office and the California Highway Patrol.

Malibu Canyon Road was closed in the area for several hours while an investigation was conducted into the circumstances of the crash.

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SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District of Los Angeles County (SMMUSD) will receive sealed bids from contractors holding a type **"B"** license, on the following: **Bid #22.05.SMS – DSA #03-121129 – HVAC Mechanical Facade Project at Rogers Elementary School.** This scope of work is estimated to be between **$250,000.00 - $300,000.00** and includes Addition of roof mounted metal screen and ladder at Building A. Site work including addition of trench drains w/ drywells at HVAC equipment enclosures at Buildings D, E, F, G, H, & J. Possible hazardous materials abatement at areas of work and other associated improvements per bidding documents. All bids must be submitted electronically as per the instructions included in the bidding documents on or before 2/17/22 no later than 2:00 PM. All General Contractors and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (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 Bid #.

Prequalification Due Date & Instructions for Application Submission: All applications are due no later than 2/3/22 - 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 approval limit. The Districts approved contractors listing can be obtained via the FIP website at https://www.smmusd.org/domain/4172.

Mandatory Job Walk: 1/27/22 @ 4:00pm

Job Walk location: Rogers Elementary School located in Santa Monica, CA – All Attending Contractors MUST meet the District representatives at the front of the school administration building, 2401 14th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405. Bidders will be escorted onto the campus from that location. Due to COVID-19 all attending contractors must not have a temperature (temperatures will be taken), bring and wear face masks/coverings at all times while on the site and adhere to social distancing safety requirements during the meeting or they will be asked to leave the property.

Electronic Bid Submittal Deadline: 2/17/22 at 2:00pm

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.

LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION

Santa Monica Daily Press editor@smdp.com

Ex-DWP Executive Pleads Guilty in Corruption Case

City News Service

A former top executive of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power pleaded guilty Tuesday to a federal bribery charge stemming from a probe of the city's handling of the botched launch of a DWP billing system.

David H. Wright, 62, of Riverside, accepted bribes from a lawyer in exchange for supporting a $30 million, no-bid DWP contract, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. The lawyer named in the case, Paul Paradis, has also agreed to plead guilty to a federal bribery count.

Wright is expected to be sentenced April 26. He admitted in his plea agreement that he accepted kickbacks and participated in "corrupt schemes" while leading the municipal utility.

Wright's lawyer did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The cases against Wright and Paradis were the first criminal charges arising out of the investigation into the billing system rollout and subsequent litigation. The failed system led to many customers receiving wildly inflated bills.

Wright was the DWP general manager from September 2016 until July 2019, when prosecutors say he was removed from office by Mayor Eric Garcetti after the FBI conducted searches of the DWP and the City Attorney's Office.

Wright developed a relationship with Paradis, an Arizona attorney hired by the City Attorney's Office to represent the city in litigation against the contractor involved in the introduction of the 2013 billing system.

Paradis and his New York-based law firm also had a $6 million DWP contract to provide project management services in efforts to repair the faulty billing system. At the same time, however, Paradis was representing a DWP customer who planned to sue the city over the system.

Paradis admitted in his plea agreement that he accepted a nearly $2.2 million kickback for getting another attorney to represent his ratepayer client in the lawsuit against DWP — a suit that ultimately resulted in a universal, class-action settlement that critics contended was overly favorable to the city.

Paradis, 58, is expected to formally plead guilty on Feb. 1.

According to prosecutors, Wright and Paradis struck a deal in early 2017, with Wright supporting a "no-bid" $30 million DWP contract for Paradis' downtown Los Angeles-based company Aventador Utility Services LLC. In exchange, Paradis agreed to give Wright a million-dollar-per-year job as Aventador's CEO once he left the DWP, with the deal also including a luxury company car for Wright, officials said.

Wright also lobbied members of the DWP board of directors to support the contact for Aventador, the name of which was taken from a model of Lamborghini sports car, according to his plea deal.

In his plea deal, Wright admits that he lied to federal investigators in June 2019 when he told them he did not have any financial or business interest tied to Paradis. He also admitted destroying evidence to thwart to the federal probe.

After the faulty billing system was unveiled, the city and utility faced multiple class-action lawsuits filed by ratepayers alleging harm resulting from the program.

In December 2014, the City Attorney's Office retained Paradis and Beverly Hills lawyer Paul R. Kiesel as special counsel

SEE **DWP** PAGE 11

LA Company to Pay $4.2M to Settle Claims It Blocked Negative Online Reviews

City News Service

Los Angeles-based Fashion Nova will be required to pay $4.2 million to settle allegations it blocked negative reviews of its products from being posted to its website, the Federal Trade Commission announced Tuesday.

The FTC alleged the fast-fashion online retailer misrepresented that the reviews on its website reflected the views of all purchasers who submitted reviews, when in fact it suppressed reviews with ratings lower than four stars out of five.

The FTC said this was the agency's first case involving a company's efforts to conceal negative customer reviews.

"Deceptive review practices cheat consumers, undercut honest businesses and pollute online commerce," Samuel Levine, director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection, said in a statement. "Fashion Nova is being held accountable for these practices, and other firms should take note."

The company said in a statement that the FTC's allegations are "inaccurate and deceptive."

Fashion Nova "never suppressed any website reviews, and it immediately and voluntarily addressed the website review issues when it became aware of them in 2019," according to the company. "Fashion Nova is highly confident that it would have won in court and only agreed to settle the case to avoid the distraction and legal fees that it would incur in litigation."

The company blamed its reliance on a third-party software vendor, which offered an option to "autopublish" various star ratings in a drop-down menu.

"Those that were not autopublished were filtered and could be individually reviewed and manually released," according to Fashion Nova. "At one point in time, the company inadvertently failed to complete this process given certain resource constraints during a period of rapid growth. That issue was remedied several years ago and all previously unpublished reviews have now been posted to the extent they are actually about the product they were submitted for and do not contain profanity, do not contain threatening language and comply with other reasonable terms."

According to the FTC's complaint, the third-party online product review management interface automatically posted four- and five-star reviews to the Fashion Nova website and held lower-starred reviews for the company's approval.

But from late 2015 until November 2019, Fashion Nova never approved or posted the hundreds of thousands of lower-starred, more negative reviews, the FTC alleged.

Suppressing a product's negative reviews deprives consumers of potentially useful information and artificially inflates the product's average star rating, according to the FTC.

The consumer protection agency also announced that it is sending letters to 10 companies offering review management services, placing them on notice that avoiding the collection or publication of negative reviews violates the FTC Act.

In addition, the FTC has released new guidance for online retailers and review platforms to educate them on the agency's key principles for collecting and publishing customer reviews in ways that do not mislead consumers.

The case is the second action the FTC has brought against Fashion Nova in recent years. In April 2020, the FTC announced that Fashion Nova agreed to pay $9.3 million to settle allegations that the company failed to properly notify consumers and give them the chance to cancel their orders when it failed to ship merchandise in a timely manner, and that it illegally used gift cards to compensate consumers for unshipped merchandise instead of providing refunds.

Fashion Nova was launched in 2006 as a chain of stores selling low- price club wear and apparel in Los Angeles-area malls including Panorama City. It includes five stores across Southern California.

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AWARD WINNER

AWARD WINNER

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Sustainable Quality Awards
WINNER

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 FRIDAY, JANUARY 14 AT APPROXIMATELY 4 A.M.

Officers responded to El Pollo Loco located near the 1900 block of Lincoln Blvd for a burglary in progress. Upon arrival, officers found the suspect, later identified as Kelly Kivett, a 53-year-old male, inside the restaurant. Witnesses reported that Kivett entered through the rear door of the business, opened cash registers and scattered utensils and other items around. Kivett was booked for burglary and possession of burglary tools.

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

LA Spreads Awareness About Human Trafficking Ahead Of Super Bowl

MARGARET SHUTTLEWORTH
City News Service

Local and state officials kicked off an anti-human trafficking campaign today at the Los Angeles International Airport to spread awareness ahead of the Super Bowl — which, like other large events, is susceptible to high levels of human and sex trafficking.

The airport installed signs on its digital screens and in the airport's 460 restrooms to share resources for people who want to report suspected human trafficking and abuse before, during and after the Super Bowl on Feb. 13.

The efforts are part of the It's A Penalty campaign, which works to prevent abuse, exploitation and human trafficking worldwide, particularly during large sporting events. The signs feature this year's It's A Penalty campaign ambassadors, Los Angeles Rams punter Johnny Hekker, Tampa Bay Buccaneers receiver Chris Godwin and Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

"Large events, such as the Super Bowl, can lead to increased instances of human trafficking due to a high influx of visitors," It's A Penalty states on its website. "And when it comes to the prevalence of commercial sex industries, California is particularly vulnerable because of its proximity to international borders, number of ports and airports, significant immigrant population and large economy that includes industries that attract forced labor."

On Tuesday, It's A Penalty's CEO Sarah de Carvalho kicked off the campaign at LAX with California Attorney General Rob Bonta and L.A. City Council President Nury Martinez, along with representatives of the airport, the Los Angeles Board of Airport Commissioners, Uber, Airbnb, American Airlines, A21 and the U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking.

"The It's a Penalty campaign, along with our partners, will help to prevent human trafficking and exploitation in the run-up to and during Super Bowl LV1, contributing toward a positive legacy in the host city of Los Angeles and beyond," de Carvalho said. "We know from previous campaigns just how impactful they can be. Last year, our largest campaign ran during the Super Bowl in Tampa, which reported that 84% of people felt improved awareness of the issues of human trafficking and exploitation, and more equipped to make a report after being exposed to the It's a Penalty campaign."

Uber is participating in the campaign by displaying the national human trafficking hotline, 1-888-373-7888 and a local reporting hotline on 2,500 of its vehicles. American Airlines and Southwest Airlines will show an in- flight film aboard its January and February flights to spread awareness as well.

The campaign also sent Los Angeles-area Hilton, IHG and Motel 6 hotels posters and pens with the hotline number to display for the public, and hotel staff will receive posters of missing children to keep an eye out for them during the Super Bowl. Hilton and IHG staff will also receive training on how to identify and report human trafficking.

"Whether it's ahead of the Super Bowl or in everyday life, it takes all of us working together to combat human trafficking," Bonta said. "...

Businesses and members of the public can all be part of the solution. One way to help is by posting our office's informational notices in your place of business to share resources aimed at supporting survivors and preventing trafficking."

It's A Penalty was created in collaboration with the nonprofit A21 in 2014 to harness the attention around sports. It educates sports fans and the public on how to identify human trafficking and what penalties the offenses carry.

Its website classifies human trafficking as a "major issue" in Los Angeles and the United States.

"Children as young as 12 years old are being sold for sex in Los Angeles, California, where the area's tourism industry, adult entertainment industry and international seaports and airports create a lucrative, and highly accessible, environment for traffickers," It's A Penalty states as part of its L.A. Super Bowl anti-trafficking campaign.

Nationwide, It's A Penalty estimates that between 100,000 and 300,000 children have been trafficked and sold into the sex industry, citing the California Human Trafficking Factsheet.

It has launched campaigns at nine other Super Bowls, as well as Olympic games, World Cups and European Championships.

The campaign urges the public to know the signs of a human trafficking victim, which can include people who:

— lack official identification documents;

— avoid eye contact, social interaction, and authority figures/law enforcement;

— have tattoos or a branding on their body, which can be a way for traffickers to identify them;

— are not allowed to go into public alone or speak for themselves;

— seem to adhere to scripted or rehearsed responses in social interaction;

— show signs of physical injuries and abuse (however, human trafficking victims are often harmed in areas that don't affect their appearance);

— seem to not know where they are, with an inability to clarify where they are staying;

— have little to no knowledge of the local language;

— were recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of their work;

— live somewhere with high security measures; and

— have few or no personal possessions or control over their finances.

More information about the campaign and how to spot and report human trafficking is available at itsapenalty.org.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Los Angeles

Three Researchers Earn Michelson Medical Research Foundation Grants

A trio of young researchers were named Tuesday recipients of grants awarded by the Los Angeles-based Michelson Medical Research Foundation to support their work in the fields of human immunology, vaccine discovery and immunotherapy.

"We need disruptive thinkers and doers who dare to change the trajectory of the world for the better," Dr. Gary Michelson, founder and co- chair of the Michelson Medical Research Foundation, said in a statement. "Yet promising young researchers too often lack the opportunities, resources and freedom to explore their bold ideas. With the Michelson Prizes, we aim to provide early career investigators a vital boost for their forward-thinking approaches."

Recipients of the $150,000 grants, which are presented in conjunction with the Human Vaccines Project, are Dr. Camila Consiglio, postdoctoral researcher at Karolinska Institutet; Dr. Rong Ma, postdoctoral fellow at Emory University; and Dr. Nicholas Wu, assistant professor at the University of Illinois.

"It is inspiring to see their passion for innovation and their courage to think out of the box," Dr. Wayne Koff, CEO and president of the Human Vaccines Project, said in a statement. "I look forward to their future breakthrough discoveries and how their research can contribute to the Human Vaccines Project's mission of developing the first AI model of human immunity."

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Los Angeles

Service Temporarily Halted After Expo Train Kills Pedestrian

A pedestrian was fatally struck by a Metro train Tuesday in the Crenshaw area, prompting a temporary halt to train service on part of the Metro E Line.

The collision occurred about 4:50 a.m. at Exposition Boulevard and Seventh Avenue near the Crenshaw neighborhood, said Metro spokesman Jose Ubaldo.

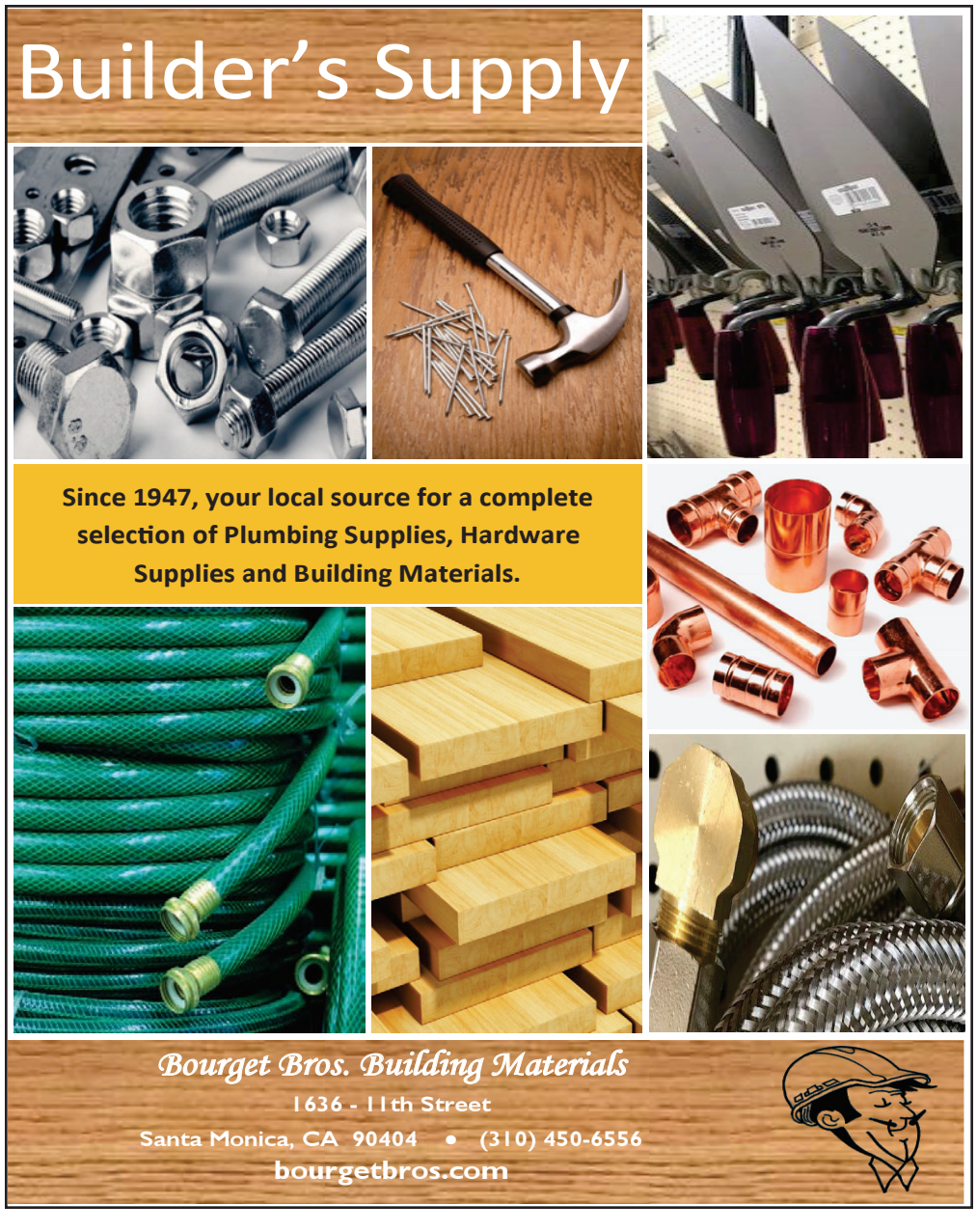
The name fatally injured pedestrian was not immediately available.

Metro implemented a bus shuttle service for rail passengers to use in the area, which was closed while an investigation was conducted. Rail service in the area was restored shortly after 10 a.m. The E Line was formerly known as the Expo Line.

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SAINT JOHN'S

FROM PAGE 1

updated community benefits agreement.

The reconstruction and expansion plans would remove the existing Saint John's Health Center foundation building, MRI facility, John Wayne Cancer Institute, and a vacant apartment building to make way for ten new structures. The proposed facilities include hospital space, medical offices, medical research facilities, a health and wellness center, an education and conference center, a child and family development center, day care, restaurants, visitor accommodations, and a minimum of ten units of affordable multi-family housing.

The project would also add a subterranean parking lot and replace several existing surface parking lots with open garden spaces and pathways accessible to the public.

Providence Saint John's is a 266 bed hospital located on a 10 acre campus on both sides of Santa Monica Boulevard between 20th and 23rd Streets. Redevelopment plans date back to 1994 when the Northridge Earthquake destroyed significant portions of the hospital's infrastructure, leading to a 1998 City Council agreement for a 55 year phased reconstruction and development term.

Phase One construction was completed in 2013, the same year that Providence Health Systems purchased the entire hospital campus. The Phase Two plan largely focuses on the hospital's 5 acre South Campus located on the south side of Santa Monica Blvd., however it also includes three sites on the main campus north of Santa Monica Blvd.

In order to gain City approval for the massive project, Providence Health Systems is required to enter a community benefits agreement. The proposed 12 part agreement contains requirements for Saint John's to fund and facilitate City's priorities around health, homelessness and social services. Saint John's will carry out some of this work directly using its redeveloped facilities, while other aspects will be carried out by the City or other community partners using funding from Saint John's.

The proposed agreement would require Saint John's to provide a minimum of $1 million annually in grants to non-profit community organizations offering homeless services from 2023 through 2042 and a minimum of $500,000 annually through 2052. The agreement also asks Saint John's to provide a total of $10 million to fund behavioral and mental health initiatives, however the City and Saint John's are currently in disagreement over the payment schedule.

The community benefit agreement also includes requirements to provide childcare services, local hiring programs, an internship/nurse residency program, public access to open space on campus, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements.

Planning Commission will discuss the proposal during a Jan. 26 meeting, which will begin at 5:30 p.m. and stream live at youtube.com/user/Citytv16santamonica. The Commission's recommendations will be passed on to City Council, which will have the final say on the project at a later date.

Clara@smdp.com







Courtesy images

DEVELOPMENT: **The large redevelopment of the hospital will be discussed tonight.**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Los Angeles

Homicides, Gun Violence Slow in LA in First Few Weeks of 2022

Los Angeles Police Chief Michel Moore said Tuesday that the number of homicides and shooting victims in the city slowed during the first three weeks of 2022 compared to last year.

"While the numbers are still stabilizing, I can report that in the first three weeks we have seen somewhat of a slowing down of the number of shots fired, number of shooting victims and the number of homicides compared to the same period last year."

Twenty-six people have been victims of homicide so far this year, while that number was 33 at this point in 2021.

Moore noted, however, that the "level of violence is still well above the numbers we saw in 2020. So we are by no means out of the woods in regards to this."

While homicides and gun violence slowed, robberies increased 14% in the first few weeks of 2022 compared to the same period in 2021, Moore said.

Moore said the Los Angeles Police Department is focusing its resources first on violent crime, and the department is working to educate the public to "lock it, hide it, keep it," to prevent being victims of property crimes.

Los Angeles, as well as cities across the U.S., saw spikes in select categories of crime in 2021, including an 11.8% increase in homicides, a 3.9% increase in violent crime and a 4.2% increase in property crimes.

The number of people shot rose by 9%.

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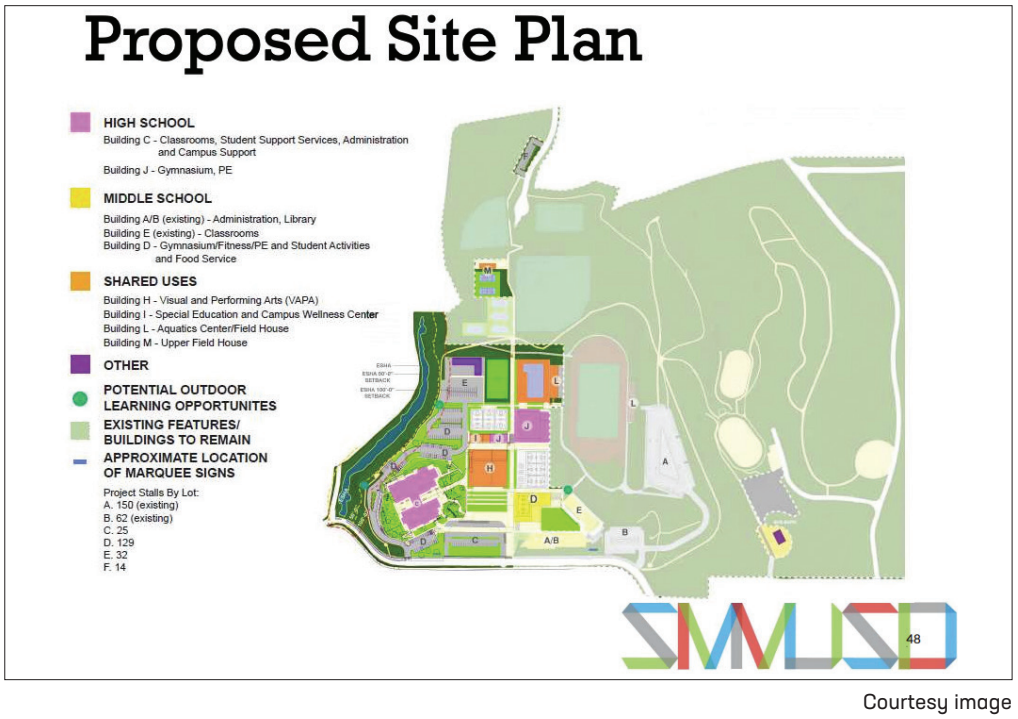
SMMUSD

FROM PAGE 1

a classroom/support building at McKinley Elementary; and modernize the John Adams Middle School library.

The Board will also consider developing campus plans for Roosevelt Elementary and Lincoln Middle School.

"The next step for the campus plans, historic resources reports and SMS projects will be in-person community meetings being scheduled for the end of February and the month of March," according to the staff report for the meeting. "These Future Facility meeting[s] will allow staff, parents and community members to walk the sites and see the recent improvements, remaining needs and the potential historic resources. The site walks will be followed by an information meeting and conversation on the next projects for the facilities."



Courtesy image

MALIBU: Construction projects in Malibu include a redesign of the Malibu High School campus.

MALIBU

When the SMMUSD Board of Education last met on Jan. 13, board members were cornered into extending a very tight deadline on a project to rebuild the Malibu High School campus using Measure M funds.

Malibu's planning department requested the delay in approving the project's environmental impact report (EIR), claiming it was not given time to thoroughly review responses to questions it had posed to the District about the major, $160 million project.

Though the extension was granted — reluctantly, at least in the case of Board Member and Malibu resident Craig Foster — members expressed concern that the delay would harm the chances of the campus project moving forward in time to have students in classrooms on the new campus by fall 2024 as had been the goal.

Board members also requested that outreach between the two elected bodies take place to help open channels of communication and reduce the chance of further delays.

"We, the Governing Board of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, are writing to you today seeking your commitment to help us in getting this project (the Malibu Middle and High School Specific Plan and the Phase 1 High School Building) entitled and constructed to the benefit of the City of Malibu's students, parents, staff, and community," reads an excerpt from the two-page letter drafted by SMMUSD board members and delivered to Malibu City Council and staff members. "We, as a Board, are committed to working closely with the City and we have directed our staff to do the same."

The letter, dated Jan. 14 and later shared with the Daily Press, requested that Malibu staff consider the project a "top priority." It also requested a schedule for when Malibu's Council and Planning Commission would approve the project's specific plan. Finally, it requested better communication going forward.

"It is natural for the staffs of two independent governmental entities to, from time to time, find themselves in technical disagreement on specific issues necessary for the completion of entitlements," the letter states. "Rather than allowing such resolvable issues to linger, we ask that you ask your city manager to team with our District superintendent to provide expeditious resolution of such disagreements as they occur, preventing unneeded delays."

On Monday, McClary indicated the City of Malibu would no longer be standing in the way of the project moving forward.

"We had asked for some further consideration and the School District was gracious enough to grant that. They have rescheduled the matter of considering the certification of the EIR for the high school to this Wednesday, January 26," McClary said. "The City [of Malibu] will be submitting a letter noting that the School District has addressed the City's concerns. And we will have City planning staff in attendance at that meeting."

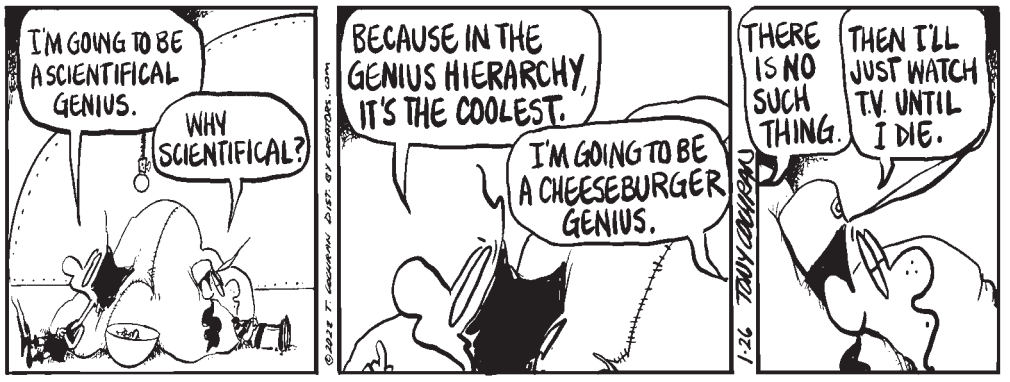
The special meeting it scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 26, and is available to watch on Zoom (meeting ID: 835 6427 2429; passcode: 122450; call-in number: 669-900-6833) or on the District's YouTube channel.

emily@smdp.com



Agnes

By TONY COCHRAN



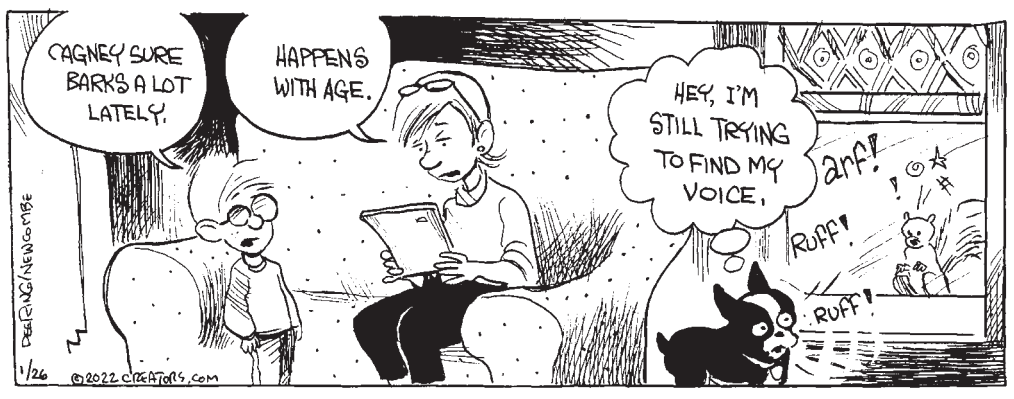
Dogs of C-Kennel

By MICK & MASON MASTROIANNI & JOHNNY HART



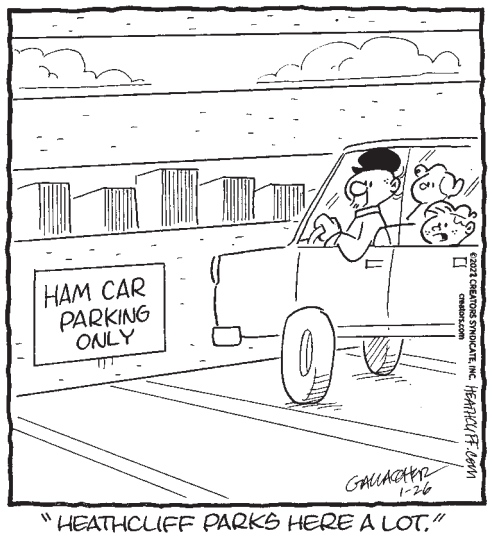
Zack Hill

By JOHN DEERING & JOHN NEWCOMBE



Heathcliff

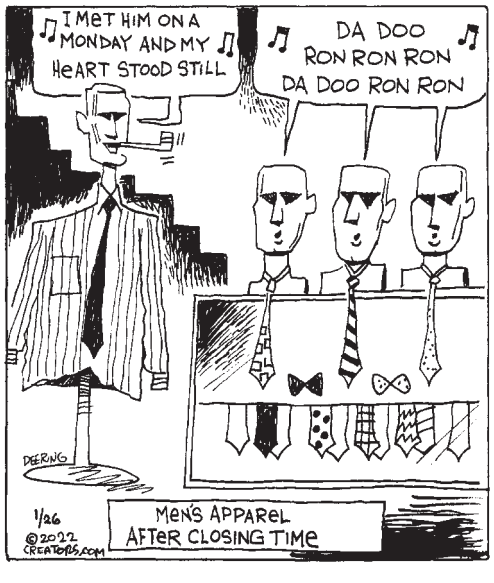
By PETER GALLAGHER



"HEATHCLIFF PARKS HERE A LOT."

Strange Brew

By JOHN DEERING





SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: 58.5°

WEDNESDAY - **FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high occ. 4 ft
Refresh of WNW swell shows, down a notch or two from Tuesday. Just a touch of SSW swell mixing in. Should be another favorable morning for conditions and the afternoon looks pretty good too.

THURSDAY - **POOR TO FAIR** - SURF: 2-3ft+ Waist to stomach high
Gradual ease in surf as reinforcing WNW swell backs down. Still a touch of SSW swell. Conditions currently look best in the morning, then PM onshores due.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 71. Northeast wind 5 to 15 mph.
Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 47. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.
Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 71. North northwest wind around 10 mph.

Date	Day	Time (LST/LDT)	Predicted (ft)	High/Low
2022/01/26	Wed	03:31 AM	5.04	H
2022/01/26	Wed	11:12 AM	0.58	L
2022/01/26	Wed	5:27 PM	2.73	H
2022/01/26	Wed	9:27 PM	2.17	L
2022/01/27	Thu	04:30 AM	5.47	H
2022/01/27	Thu	12:15 PM	-0.24	L
2022/01/27	Thu	6:54 PM	3.06	H
2022/01/27	Thu	10:46 PM	2.33	L
2022/01/28	Fri	05:29 AM	5.95	H
2022/01/28	Fri	1:06 PM	-0.97	L
2022/01/28	Fri	7:46 PM	3.41	H
2022/01/28	Fri	11:55 PM	2.27	L
2022/01/29	Sat	06:24 AM	6.39	H
2022/01/29	Sat	1:52 PM	-1.51	L
2022/01/29	Sat	8:26 PM	3.71	H
2022/01/30	Sun	12:54 AM	2.07	L
2022/01/30	Sun	07:15 AM	6.73	H
2022/01/30	Sun	2:35 PM	-1.82	L
2022/01/30	Sun	9:04 PM	3.95	H
2022/01/31	Mon	01:46 AM	1.80	L
2022/01/31	Mon	08:02 AM	6.88	H

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 1/24
11 29 30 47 53
Power#: 16
Jackpot: 91 M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/21
38 45 46 55 67
Mega#: 18
Jackpot: 396 M

SuperLotto PLUS
Draw Date: 1/22
25 36 43 44 46
Mega#: 2
Jackpot: 11 M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/24
2 3 4 6 15

Daily 3
Draw Date: 1/24
EVENING: 8 5 6
Draw Date: 1/24
MIDDAY: 2 6 0

Daily Derby
Draw Date: 1/24
1st: 12 - Lucky Charms
2nd: 09 - Winning Spirit
3rd: 05 - California Classic
Race Time: 1:43.44

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

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TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (JANUARY 26)

You are fiercely competitive at key moments. Your success will be a direct result of three challenges you faced with grit. These instances will be tempered by the gentle, cozy vibe that prevails over your personal and domestic life. Pisces and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 30, 1, 22, 27 and 17.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even though you understand intellectually that it's wrong to base your self-worth on someone else's opinion, you'll still find yourself working for a certain person's approval and being elated when you get it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). While it may be impossible to will yourself to take pleasure in an experience, it is very possible to direct your thought process toward being open to any pleasure that is there for you to experience.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Is it really better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all? Time is a most precious resource not to be wasted in ill-matched scenarios. You'll move cautiously in relationship matters.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You feel animated, vibrant, ready to take up space and share all the friendly energy bottled up inside you. Interesting developments are in store for your social life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Enjoy the haze of fuzzy knowledge while it lasts because you're about to know a lot more. New information will either inspire you to like a thing a lot more or not at all.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Perfection doesn't need perfecting, mostly because it doesn't exist. Things that are pretty darned good don't need perfecting either, as you're better off taking the win and moving forward to the next thing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Does someone think about you as often and with as much affection as you think about them? The balance of even the most reciprocal love is always changing as the pendulum of attention swings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Successful conversations will be the start of your good luck. The right subject is key. Focus on topics people like to talk about and can relate to for all the good feelings they kindle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Love isn't in some distant galaxy; it's right in your own swirl, waiting to be embraced. You have everything you need to unlock the next level of a relationship if it's what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The routine gets old. Common things become so familiar they blend into the fabric of the day, losing their power to ignite the senses. A change-up is in order. Don't wait for it to happen; make it happen.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You handle things. If it needs doing, you do it. But if you do too much for others, you could accidentally reward laziness and promote further inaction. Whatever you take on now, you'll have to keep taking on.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When you finish early, keep working. Later, when the unexpected happens, instead of being stressed you'll feel you have options and opportunities. You'll be glad you got ahead of things when you had the chance.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD

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

Sudoku

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU

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

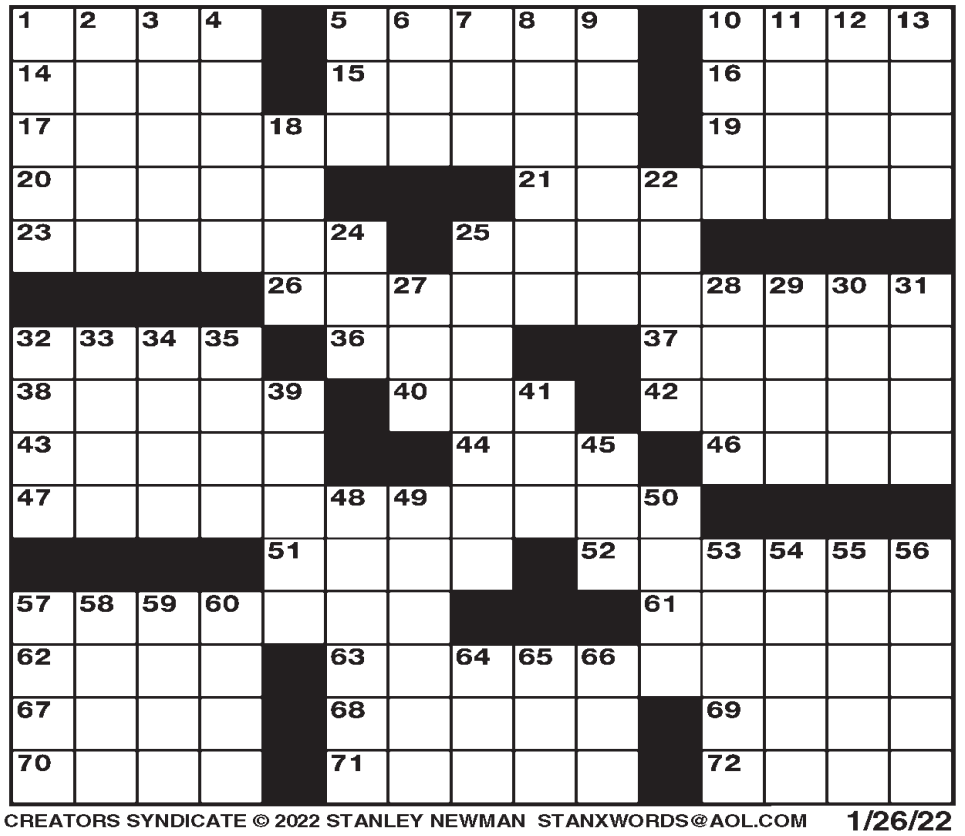
	3				6	4		
	4						9	
6		8	4		7			5
				6		5		
		6	9		4	3		
		9		7				
7			6		2	9		8
	8						4	
		4	1				3	

Newsday Crossword

WHAT ARE THE ODDS? by Steve Faiella
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS
1 Fly high
5 Sofa
10 Move like a butterfly
14 Lump of sugar
15 __ Park (Edison lab site)
16 Elton John rock musical
17 Small apartment
19 Oboe mouthpiece
20 Eight-person orchestra
21 Our Olympics squad
23 Electric autos
25 Backyard storage building
26 Enthusiastic vocal approval
32 British guy
36 Vote like "aye"
37 Protruding navel
38 Resides (at)
40 Winter hrs. in Seattle
42 Wooden shipping box
43 Submit tax forms online
44 Lend a hand to
46 South-of-the-border cheers
47 Value of Abe's bill
51 Very frequently
52 Japanese motorcycle brand
57 Folklore tales
61 Retail markdowns
62 Pinnacle
63 What Rome was built on
67 Parcel (out)
68 __ *of Two Cities*
69 Auto racer __ Earnhardt Jr.
70 Mrs. Harry Truman
71 Fictional candymaker Willy
72 Not fixable

DOWN
1 "Scram!"
2 Fraction of a pound
3 Aids in wrongdoing
4 Mutineer, for example
5 Order from the Capt.
6 "__ the ramparts we watched . . ."
7 Most important "numero"
8 Provide with garments
9 High school cooking class, for short
10 Agricultural business
11 In ___ of (rather than)
12 __ of March (March 15th)
13 "Look what I did!"
18 Coup d'__
22 Temporary, as a committee
24 Timid
25 Condiment from the ocean
27 Sales agent, for short
28 Coin in Spain or France
29 Bibliography abbr.
30 Solemn ceremony
31 Pays a call on
32 "Treble" music symbol
33 Stereo system, familiarly
34 Tel __, Israel
35 Brazilian soccer great
39 Car that's longer than a coupe
41 Spanish aunt
45 Low in humidity
48 Familiar maxim
49 Be bested by
50 Wide belt
53 Female hotel-room cleaners
54 Islamic Almighty
55 Conversation starter
56 Any item of value
57 Woolly baby
58 Fencing blade
59 Acquires
60 Former partners
64 Moving day vehicle
65 Animal with antlers
66 Teachers' union: Abbr.



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What's Up Westside
out and about in Santa Monica

WEDNESDAY | JAN 26

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
Established in 1946, the Planning Commission envisions Santa Monica as a city of wellbeing, sustainability, and equity, and seeks to balance the many needs and priorities within our community in accordance with the City's General Plan and Specific Plans. The Commission acts through open and civil discourse that is informed by public input, impartial analysis, and best practices in land use and planning.

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET
Arizona Ave. (between 4th & Ocean)
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

LIVE BAND KARAOKE AT HARVELLE'S
Come Sing With The Band. The famous "Live Band Karaoke" show comes to Harvelle's every Wednesday at 9 p.m. $2 Tacos $4 PBR Beers $6 Well Drinks. Harvelle's Blues Club, 1432 4th Street

THURSDAY | JAN 27

COURTYARD & SPLASH PAD OPEN
The Annenberg Community Beach House gated area, including the courtyard and splash pad, are open to the public daily. Please note, from September - May hours are subject to change with short notice. Check the Beach House website calendar or call 310-458-4904 to confirm. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

THE JUMP OFF!
The Jump Off is a monthly comedy showcase where the Westside Comedy Theater picks the best up-and-coming performers in LA and pairs them with popular headliners from around the country who have performed on Netflix, Comedy Central, HBO, Showtime, and more! Recent headliners have included Nikki Glaser, Megan Gailey, and Erik Griffin. 1323-A Third Street Promenade, 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. $20. https://www.westsidecomedy.com. Show is 21 and over.

FRIDAY | JAN 28

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) CONVERSATION, LOW
Santa Monica Public Library hosts an ongoing series of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes taught by Adult Education Center instructors. Classes are free and students must be 18 years or older to attend. Enrollment is through the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, located at 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203. Visit smmusd.asapconnected.com or contact Olga Saucedo at osaucedo@smmusd.org or (310) 664-6222, ext.76203 to enroll. Classes will begin in a virtual format. If live classes become possible, they will take place at Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

SATURDAY | JAN 29

MANOS A LA OBRA POP-UP ARTISAN MARKET
A community celebration of craft and art at the Manos a la Obra pop-up Artisan Market. The market will feature different products produced and/or sourced by local artisans who have been collaborating with artists Cog•nate Collective to establish a community-led public market in Santa Monica. Purchase handmade artisanal crafts and view the exhibition Manos a la Obra in 18th Street Arts Center's Propeller Gallery. 3026 Airport Avenue, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

THE SHOWCASE AT ST. MONICA
Inviting the greater Westside community to St. Monica's kickoff to Catholic Schools Week. The arts appreciation night will feature food trucks, refreshments and performances direct from its innovative TK-12 classrooms. St. Monica elementary and high school student hosts will introduce classmates' song and dance numbers from solos to quartets and from tap to jazz to liturgical dance. On stage there will be improv comedy and even some drama in skits and a special poem/rap – plus a violin performance you won't want to miss. An Art Walk display will Showcase selections from the TK class through advanced high school art classes. Food trucks start serving at 5 pm and the show premieres at 6:30 pm. St. Monica Catholic Schools, 1039 7th St., Santa Monica (enter Hilton Schoolyard via parking driveway on California Ave.)

SUNDAY | JAN 30

COURTYARD & SPLASH PAD OPEN
The Annenberg Community Beach House gated area, including the courtyard and splash pad, are open to the public daily. Please note, from September - May hours are subject to change with short notice. Check the Beach House website calendar or call 310-458-4904 to confirm. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

FIND THE WORDS

This is a theme puzzle with the subject stated below. Find the listed words in the grid. (They may run in any direction but always in a straight line. Some letters are used more than once.) Ring each word as you find it and when you have completed the puzzle, there will be 19 letters left over. They spell out the alternative theme of the puzzle.

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City of churches

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

Arts
Bikes
Bowden
Calm
Chidda
Cosy
Crafers
Direk
Draper
East
Gulfview Heights
Grange
Hove
Largs North
Lynton
Malvern
Marryatville
Medindie
Moana
O'Sullivan Beach
Osborne
Paralowie
Pooraka
Ripen
Skye
Soil
St Agnes
Sturt
Styles
Town hall
Underdale
Unley
Virginia
Walks
West

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S WORDS PUZZLE.
Where we'd all like to be

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Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

PCH TRAFFIC

FROM PAGE 1

included new timing and coordination plans "optimized with appropriate cycle lengths and time-based schedule for proper traveling speeds and to generate reasonable gaps for cross streets and driveways."

Speaking at the Monday, Jan. 24, Malibu City Council meeting, Malibu Public Works Director Rob DuBoux described how the system was designed to work.

"All of the signals will have special sensors that will detect traffic in certain situations and adjust the timing and synchronization of the lights accordingly based on the current traffic demands," DuBoux said. "And so, that's what's very new and innovative with this project — to have the ability to kind of have the technology built into the traffic signals to be able to kind of on-the-fly adjust those traffic signals."

The system will also include cameras and be more accessible to those with disabilities.

"Improvements will include new closed circuit TV (CCTV) cameras at each intersection, replace existing signal poles with new signal poles, street improvements and ADA upgrades, ATCS [adaptive traffic control system] sensors, and changeable message signs," the City of Malibu website describes. "Mid-block sensors will enable Caltrans to monitor traffic flow and speed, then remotely adjust signal timing in the moment."

A panel of traffic engineers from nearby cities including Santa Monica helped to select the final design, from engineering consultant Kimley-Horn.

Now, in 2022, the City is taking steps toward finally commencing the project, which will see the synchronization of traffic signals on an eight-mile stretch of PCH between Topanga Canyon Boulevard and John Tyler Drive (at the Pepperdine University campus in central Malibu, just past Malibu Canyon Road).

At its Monday meeting, Malibu City Council approved an agreement with Caltrans, which owns the highway, to continue to move forward with the project, which will be paid for with LA County transportation bonds — specifically, Measure R (a countywide half-cent sales tax), passed in 2008. Approved at $13.7 million when it was developed in 2017, the project budget has grown to $14.6 million.

The 2015 study lists 19 traffic signals along Malibu's 21 miles; 12 of those signals would be part of the synchronization project. However, the highway has changed in the intervening seven years. Two new traffic signals have been added to that eight-mile stretch of highway: one east of the Malibu Pier and another near La Costa Beach, closer to Malibu's eastern edge. Both of those signals, plus two others that were already in place, are triggered by pedestrians indicating their wish to cross the street by pressing a button located on the light pole.

"It seems there's a fundamental conflict between, on the one hand, synchronizing all the lights to produce an even flow of traffic and, on the other hand, allowing some lights to be on-demand at the push of a button," one member of the public who spoke at the Monday meeting, Kraig Hill, said. Hill went on to predict that either the random signal changes would render the synchronization project useless or else (if the signal change waits for the synchronized traffic flow and doesn't immediately stop traffic) hotel valets and other repeat beachgoers would learn not to rely on signals being reactive and would dart out into traffic to cross the highway.

But the system is adaptable, Malibu City staff replied.

DuBoux said there will be elements to the system that will signal if a pedestrian wants to cross and adjust the timing of the crossing to gaps in traffic.

"There also is a timer, too, that will adjust to that and will take into consideration all the synchronization that goes on and find out a good time to do that."

DuBoux acknowledged that pedestrians asked to wait too long would be tempted to cross against the light.

"What I told Kraig was that it is very, very flexible," DuBoux said. "It will automatically make those changes, but if we see those things [long waits] happening, we can make adjustments with the programming and synchronization."

Malibu city staff did not immediately respond to questions about the project's budget increases or when the long-expected project was expected to be completed.

emily@smdp.com

DWP

FROM PAGE 4

to represent the city in a lawsuit meant to be used to settle all related claims on the city's desired terms, according to federal prosecutors.

Kiesel is cooperating with the investigation and is not charged with any wrongdoing.

Prosecutors contend that when Paradis began representing the city as special counsel in the litigation against PricewaterhouseCoopers over the company's handling of the DWP billing system rollout, city prosecutors were aware that he was already representing Antwon Jones, a ratepayer who had a claim against the utility arising from billing overcharges.

But Jones was unaware that his lawyer, Paradis, also represented his intended adversary, according to court filings.

Thomas H. Peters, 55, of Pacific Palisades, a former senior official at the City Attorney's Office, has agreed to plead guilty to a federal extortion charge and is cooperating in the probe.

Federal prosecutors have also obtained a plea agreement from David F. Alexander, 54, of Arcadia, a former senior cyber official at the utility.

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DBA

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: File Number 2021263472 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 12/6/21. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as Lashed By Rovetti 12600 Braddock Dr 205 Los Angeles, CA 90066. The full name of the registrant(s) is/are Rachel Rovetti 12600 Braddock Dr 205 Los Angeles, CA 90066If corporation or LLC- Print State of Incorporation/Organization California This Business is conducted by: An Individual The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date) 11/2021 Registrant/Corp/ LLC Name /s/: Rachel Rovetti Title: Owner Rachel Rovetti This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 12/06/21 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, 01/07/21, 01/10/21, 01/17/21, 01/24/21

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAMECase No. 22SMDP0013Superior Court of California, County of Los AngelesPetition of Oue Appoline Barkis Traore Suchy for Change of NameTO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:Petitioner or Attorney: Oue Appoline Barkis Traore Suchy filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: Oue Appoline Barkis Traore Suchy to Appoline Suchy 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 3/25/2022 Time: 8:30 a.m, Dept: K Room: - . The address of the court is SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA - COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES,1725 Main Street Santa Monica CA 90405A 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:1/7/2022

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE

Help Wanted

EXPERT MACHINE & TOOL, INCExpert Machine & Tool, INC.Needs Full-Time/Per-Time BookKeeper (CA)Expert Machine & Tool, INC looking for a full-time/per-time Data Entry/ Bookkeeper remotelyWorking hours:- 20-25HR weekly. Salary:- $18-$20/Hourly Flexible schedule and a pleasant work environment. SKILLS/ EXPERIENCE: Excellent communications capabilitiesAbility to analyze, problem solve and must possess exceptional attention to detailcomfortable working office setting. Must be fully vaccinatedInterested candidate email/ send resume to (david.muriphy19@gmail.com

Software Engineer (Full Stack) sought by Snap Inc. in Santa Monica, CA (Hybrid work permitted - may work remotely when not reporting into Snap Santa Monica, CA office.) Use HTML, CSS, JavaScript to build scalable web apps. BS or for. eq. + 3 yrs exp req. Resumes: apply2snap@snap.com. Reference Job Code #SWE(FS)-0122-QC. EOE.

Restaurant Operations Specialist. Restaurant in Pacific Palisades, CA. High School Diploma/GED + 2 yrs. of exp. as Restaurant Operations Specialist or any managerial exp. req'd. Mail Resume: Sasabune Express LLC: 970 Monument St. #118, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272; Attn: Stoimenov

HOURS MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00am - 5:00pm
LOCATION 1640 5th Street, Suite 218, Santa Monica, CA 90401

MOST LOVED
2022
Santa Monica

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